

THE AMERICAN
LEGION
MAGAZINE

SEE PAGE 14

WHERE DO WE
STAND TODAY WITH
**COMMUNISM IN
THE UNITED STATES?**

By J. EDGAR HOOVER

MARCH 1954



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Vol. 56 No. 3, March 1954

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

MAGAZINE

LEGION



Cover by MEL PHILLIPS

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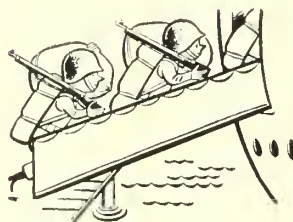
Sound Off!



AMERICANISM, LEGION BRAND

Sir: I have never in my life been so proud of a bunch of people as I am of the Legion Auxiliary that I belong to. We were in that Flint tornado. We lost our home and everything in it. I woke up five days later with a fractured skull. We had nothing. The Legion gave my husband \$150 to help with our rebuilding, the Auxiliary gave a shower for me, they gave dresses to our three little girls and when my husband was laid off for five weeks they gave us a Christmas basket. Could you ask for more help in time of need, and nicer people? I don't think so and I didn't see any of the people we know to be RED around helping anyone. I never met such a friendly group of people either. All those women have treated me like they knew me all my life, and I just met most of them. I'll take the Legion's brand of Americanism, and the Legionnaires, 100%. They're great.

Mrs. James W. Leighton
Flint, Mich.



SHIP THEM OVER

Sir: For many months I have read of our casualties in Korea and the inhuman treatment our men received as prisoners of the communists in North Korea and Red China. Now I read: "The University of Wisconsin reaffirmed the right of students to join groups of their own choosing and invite off-campus speakers. The move was prompted by criticism of campus appearances of two communist *Daily Worker* editors." It seems unfortunate that these splendid young fellows, campus playboys, cannot have a glimpse of communism in the raw. I suggest that Uncle Sam provide these men seeking information as to commu-

nism with a brand new shiny uniform and ship them pronto to Korea. This would release many good, solid American boys who pray to their God every night that they may return to their homes and our country.

Pendleton Turner
Washington, D. C.

GENESIS 2:7

Sir: In answer to the letter entitled *No Soul* by Emory L. Krahmer in your January issue, we are happy to refer him to the Bible verse, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. In the Bible there are approximately 660 other references to the soul of man.

Lewis H. Wilson
Berryville, Ark.

Sir: In *Sound Off* for January a writer asks where you get your information that man differs from other animals because God has given man a soul. May I remind the writer of Genesis 2:7. If Mr. Krahmer wishes to be theologically precise, man is a soul, but I do not think that is the distinction he wished to make in his letter.

Warren H. Ball
Minister, Latta Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Christiana, Pa.

Sir: It is easy to see that Emory Krahmer doesn't know what he is talking about when he says the Bible does not say that God gave man a soul. I refer him to Genesis 2:7.

Mrs. Ralph V. Miller
Picaune, Miss.

KLONDIKERS

Sir: In *Sound Off* for January you published a letter from a certain Karl Klondike of Illinois. At first I wondered how any State, even Illinois, could produce one like the said Mr. Klondike, but then I remembered that Illinois produced Adlai. Mr. Klondike undertakes to speak for "the rank and file" of the Legion. How does he get that way?

Harrison D. Burchell
Clearwater, Kan.

Writers must give name and address. Name withheld if requested. So many letters are being received it is not possible to promise answers. Keep your letters short. Address: *Sound Off*, The American Legion Magazine, 580 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N. Y.

Sir: Three cheers for Karl Klondike who hates hate. I claim to know nothing of Russia except what is fed us through news and radio; being a skeptic I take everything with a grain of salt. Facts about the Spanish Inquisition, however, still linger in my memory with dread of recurrence.

Clara D. Taylor
Milton, Pa.

Sir: I was amazed by the letter from Klondike. He used every red cliché and innuendo in the book.

Robert W. Van de Walle
Culver City, Calif.

Sir: I believe Klondike's letter slanders The American Legion and all it stands for. I hope he is not a Legion member; if he is he sure is a poor one. I served in WW2 and Korea, and am proud to be an enemy of communism and UN or world government.

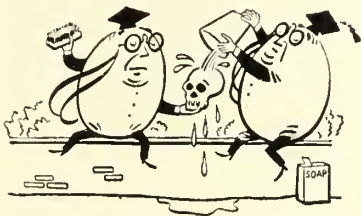
Albert R. Burke
Castro Valley, Calif.

Sir: I heartily agree with Karl Klondike. The continuous outpouring of distortion, slander and general drivel from your fascist sheet have made me ashamed to admit membership in The American Legion.

Reece J. McGee, Jr.
St. Paul, Minn.

Sir: In answer to Karl Klondike's explosion, just stay right in there and expose all the commies you can find. When one is hit, let 'em holler.

H. R. Hansen
Thomas, Okla.



BRAINWASHING

Sir: Every publicity possible should be given to Alfred Kohlberg's *Brainwashing, American Style* in your January issue. It reveals how the minds of the American people have been poisoned, and publicity is the only antidote.

Jo O. Ferguson
Pawnee, Okla.

Sir: The Legion must be down to bedrock for arguments against communism when it resorts to articles like *Brainwashing, American Style*. To fight communism is it necessary to peck away on some helpless government employee as a victim of political expediency? Where is the guilt of Harry Dexter White, Owen Lattimore or for that matter even Alger Hiss under our jurisprudence and laws of evidence? Communism never was and never will be more than abortive movements in protest to existing evils.

W. J. Hoskyn
Deer Lodge, Mont.

Sir: If it weren't for patriotic magazines like ours, this country today would be brainwashed into communism by the newspapers exposed in *Brainwashing, American Style*. The newspapers mentioned in this article smear the same people as the *Daily Worker*. Why? Have these editors been brainwashed too?

Name Withheld
Union City, N. J.

KIND WORDS

Sir: You are to be congratulated on your untiring efforts to keep a complacent public informed about the evils, danger and methods of communists, fellow-travelers, eggheads and fuzzy-headed intellectuals who are knowingly and sometimes unknowingly attempting to undermine this great country of ours. If I didn't get anything else for my annual membership dues to my Legion Post (Victor Candlin #18) I'd still think it was a bargain just to continue to receive *The American Legion Magazine*. Keep up the good anti-communist work—somebody has to do it.

James A. Sumner
Greeley, Colo.

THAT AMA BRAWL

Sir: Am deeply interested in your campaign in behalf of veterans with non-service disabilities, and the attitude of the American Medical Association . . . AMA is appealing to veterans organizations for aid to stop socialized medicine, and rewarding this aid by harming those least able to pay . . .

Christian Gunzel
St. Albans, N. Y.

Sir: Your articles on the AMA were greatly appreciated. . . . As a VA nurse, I greatly resent the AMA's attack on the hapless veteran. . . .

Eva Kobryn
Trumbull, Connecticut

Sir: The general tone of the articles gives all doctors in the United States the tie-in against the Legion position, not just the hierarchy of the AMA. . . . The ex-serviceman does have it coming to him to get the best care. . . . A formula should be worked out to stop abuses of VA care. . . . While I feel you are right in this I like both the Legion and the AMA, and don't want to see any gulf between them that a little digging on the inside couldn't clear up.

Name Withheld, M.D.
Iowa

Sir: The shame of it is that the Legion supported the Hill-Burton Act for federal aid for community hospitals, which the docs just loved. . . . We'd do it again, too, because the communities need it. . . . But surely the Hill-Burton Act is rank "socialism."

Jack Austen
Philadelphia

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Editor's Corner



PAINLESS TAXATION

AT no charge we'd like to present to some ambitious politician an idea that could well lead to the Presidency.

It concerns the income tax, which all you lucky people are doubtless thinking about at this joyous time of year.

Why, after all, should every wage-earner have to pay this tax?

Our big idea, to make the income tax painless for most Americans, would work as follows:

First, the government would call for volunteers to enlist as taxpayers. The need for taxpayers would be pointed out in advertisements stressing the patriotic aspects of taxpaying, and recruiting officers would solicit volunteers.

Second, for those not volunteering there would be a draft. "Greetings" from the President would order them to appear before their local Selective Tax Boards. However, this would not be really tough since only one out of ten or so would be ordered to pay taxes. The rest would be excused on the basis of (1) Hardship (2) Education (3) Lack of education (4) Important job (5) Important connections (6) Inconvenience.

It is hardly necessary to say that a grateful citizenry would give the politician backing this plan any office in the land.

Admittedly, it would be a bit rough on those who had to keep on paying taxes, but why worry about the few when so many voters would be made so happy?

After all, if this system is fair and proper for getting young men into uniform, isn't it just as fair for getting money into the U. S. Treasury?

We'd like to get your ideas on this. We'd also like to hear from the politicians and propagandists who oppose UMT.

BIG DEALS

A FEW WEEKS ago *Business Week* published some melancholy news concerning Great Britain's trade with the Chinese communists. It told how British businessmen, who had nursed high hopes of a lucrative trade with the reds, were becoming disillusioned. Acting the way communists always do, Chinese reds were giving the Britons little more than a hard time. In an entire year, according to *Business Week*, the British had booked only \$25,000,000 in orders, and of this only \$17,000,000 had been shipped.

However, before we become too amused over the way the eager-beaver British have been getting the customary red runaround, let us recall that we were equally stupid a couple of decades ago. We made the fatal blunder of recogniz-

ing Red Russia, largely because propagandists had assured us that the reds would buy so much stuff from us that the depression would soon be over.

We got the business all right, but it wasn't what Harry Hopkins & Co. had promised. The commies put on their usual act, stalling and haggling, and bought small quantities of only those things they couldn't chisel for free. As one wit put it, "They were only interested in samples to take home and invent."

Still there are people who insist that we can do business with the reds, and keep begging them to confer with us.

SCOOP!

Nor long ago Malenkov & Co. allowed seven American college editors into the Red Fatherland. Among the big headline news stories that resulted from this journalistic triumph was the following, as reported by the Associated Press:

"Dave Barney of Reed College, Portland, Ore., said there was considerable feeling among Russian university students against Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Wisconsin Republican."

This should rate a Pulitzer Prize.

MEDALISTS

UNFORTUNATELY we do not have any appropriate medals handy for the following celebrities, but in view of the mail we have received from Legionnaires concerning them it is at least necessary to mention their achievements.

Albert Einstein, who displays admirable fortitude by remaining in a country that has treated him so shabbily. Unfortunately, many Americans don't appreciate his well-publicized advice that certain characters should refuse to co-operate with legally constituted bodies investigating communism.

Edward R. Murrow, who, doubling as the voice of doom, solves global issues in 30 minutes, less time out for commercials. However, his recent act featuring the American Civil Liberties Union vs. The American Legion left something to be desired. As a result, this magazine will in an early issue tell some things about the ACLU that Murrow neglected.

Charles Chaplin, a star of silent films who is now retired and living abroad. It was recently announced that he is planning a film to make mince-meat out of nasty American Senators and Congressmen investigating commies. A previous effort, *Limelight*, flopped badly, but there are reports that it has been put out again.

G. WASHINGTON SIGNED

LEAFING through some old copies of this magazine we saw an item in the February 1949 issue which is as timely now as it was then. It was a reproduction of a document signed by George Washington at Valley Forge in 1778. And what was the document? A loyalty oath in which he swore to "support, maintain and defend the said United States . . ." It is something to think about when you read of the mouthings of the pipsqueaks who are so mightily insulted when they are asked to sign a similar oath.

MEXICAN ROAD RACE OR HOMETOWN TRAFFIC...



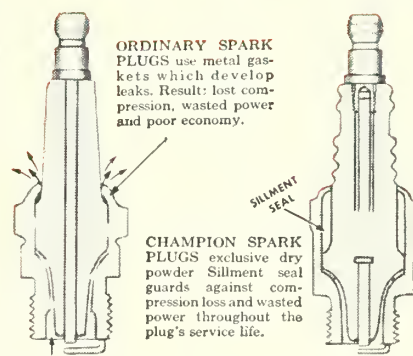
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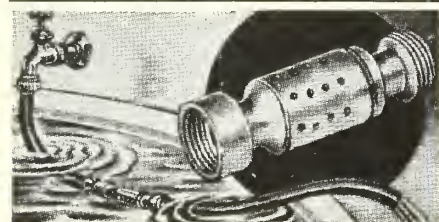
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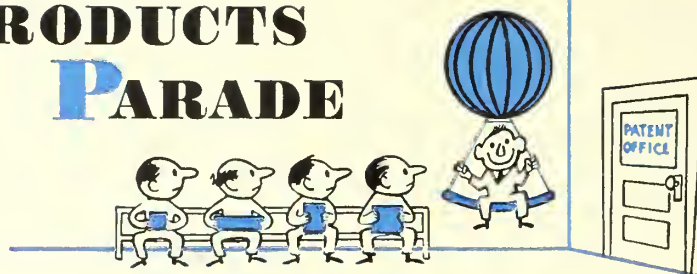
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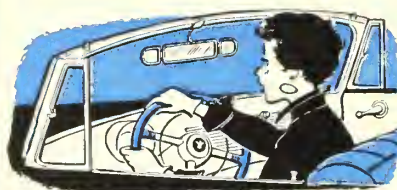
PRODUCTS PARADE



A sampling of items which are in process of development or are coming on the market. Mention of products in no way constitutes an endorsement of them, since, in most cases they are described as represented by manufacturers.

PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

There's a place for everything in the way of nuts, bolts, nails, etc., in a handy cabinet being offered by American Homcraft Co., 3714 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago 41. The cabinet differs from the conventional type by having "See-Thru" drawers made of plastic. Since you can see inside there is no need for indexing or memory exercises to find items you want. Over-all dimensions of the cabinet are approximately 10 x 12 x 6 inches and in this space there are 20 drawers. The price is \$7.95 postpaid.



ALL-ANGLE CAR MIRROR

A novel rear-view mirror for the interior of a car is now being introduced by Life-time Auto Accessories Corp., 1816 Boston Post Road, New York City 60. The unit consists of two hinged wing mirrors which are attached to the existing interior mirror by means of a turnbuckle and clamp. The hinges permit the motorist to make adjustments which give him a full wide-angle view and eliminate blind spots. The price of the two units to fasten to your present interior mirror is \$2.95 complete.

FOR THE WELL DRESSED

If your hats keep going out of shape you may go for a simple but practical gimmick called the Keepshape Hat Rest. This is a plastic form with slotted air vents that not only holds the hat off the shelf to prevent the brim from buckling, but also allows for ventilation. The price is \$2.00 from Keepshape Hat Rest, 141 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 4.

TV AS YOU WANT IT

A remote control to regulate the volume of a television or radio set is now available for \$5.95 from Controla-Tone Co., 111 N. Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, Wash. The Controla-Tone is not an off-on switch but a rheostat which makes the set as loud or as soft as you wish without interfering with

the set's performance. The device consists of a hand-size plastic unit and sufficient wire to permit its use at some distance from the set. Any TV serviceman can quickly install it.

SPICY STUFF

An unusual kitchen gadget for the guy who likes to cook is being offered by Robi-nette, Box 132, Oaklay Station, Cincinnati 9. Called the Spicerette, it is a container which has six miniature bins which hold that many kinds of spice. By turning the top you dial in the particular spice you want. Made of plastic, it sells for \$1.25 postpaid.

DRIVE RIGHT

Reflecting markers which set off your driveway so you have no trouble locating it at night are now available from D & G Products Co., 2796 Woodhull Road, Cleveland 4, Ohio. Each marker consists of a lucite cap which contains sealed-in reflective material and the cap is mounted on a yard-long aluminum rod. The price is \$4.95 for four postpaid.

TWO-WAY DOOR

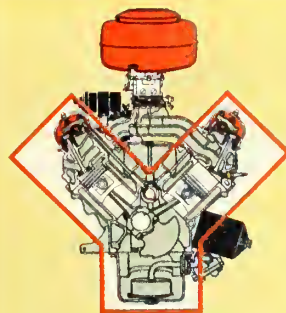
The Philco Corporation has provided something new in electric refrigerators — a two-way door which opens from either the right or the left. In the most modern mode, the new Philco refrigerator has a large V on its door. This does not signify a V-type compressor but is a handle which gives the user a choice of opening from left or right, just as some automobile hoods flip up completely from one side or the other.

WHISTLES YOU AWAKE

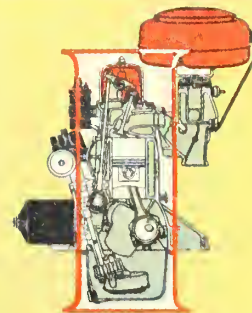
An unusual home fire alarm which sets off a shrill whistle when the temperature in a room reaches 136 degrees has been announced by the Fyr-Larm Co., 243 Broad St., Summit, N. J. This device, called a Fyr-Larm, is a tube 15 inches long containing an inert gas. It is hung up and in case of fire or abnormally high temperatures the gas escapes, sounding a piercing 95 decibel whistle. Enough gas is in the tube to keep the whistle going for six minutes. The price is \$9.95 F.O.B. Summit, and it is available in hardware stores.

When writing to manufacturers concerning items described here kindly mention that you read about them in The American Legion Magazine

Extra Dividends at no extra cost in the '54 FORD



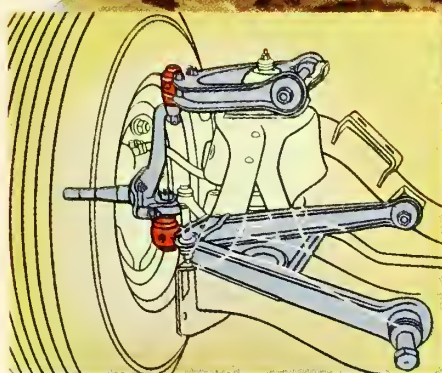
New 130-h.p. Y-block V-8



New 115-h.p. I-block SIX

Two new deep-block overhead valve engines

You get an extra dividend in performance with either of Ford's great new engines . . . thrilling new responsiveness plus greater economy than ever, thanks to modern high-compression, low-friction design. And, with new deep-block construction, operation is far smoother and quieter.



New Ball-Joint Front Suspension

This unique suspension, exclusive to Ford in its field, brings you extra dividends in more comfortable riding and consistently easier handling. Self-aligning ball-joints replace conventional hinge joints and king pins. This new system allows increased up-and-down wheel travel which smooths out even the roughest roads. And lubrication points are cut from sixteen to four.

The '54 Ford with its many "extras" is recognized everywhere as an *extra special* buy.

Note those clean, distinctive lines. Check those stunning upholsterys . . . color-keyed to smartly tailored interiors. And inspect that beautiful new Astra-Dial Control Panel. In fact, you'll find in the '54 Ford extra dividends in styling, ride and performance such as no low-priced car has ever offered before . . . and all at no extra premium in price.



Plus 5 optional power assists*

★ Master-Guide power steering does up to 75% of steering work . . . ★ Swift Sure Power Brakes do up to one-third of stopping work . . . ★ Fordomatic Drive does *all* your shifting . . . ★ Power-Lift Windows open and close at a button's touch. And ★ 4-Way Power Seat adjusts up or down, forward or back, at a touch of the controls.

*At extra cost.

Your Ford Dealer cordially invites you
to Test Drive the '54 FORD

Great TV! Ford Theater, NBC-TV, Thursday evenings.

Lively take-off!



...wherever you are, with

100% CLIMATE-CONTROLLED

Texaco **FIRE CHIEF** gasoline

WHEREVER you are — and whatever the climate or altitude — you get snappy starts, fast warm-ups, powerful, smooth-and-easy take-offs — with Fire Chief. Because Fire Chief is 100% *Climate-Controlled* — blended for top performance in *each one* of the 25 weather areas of the U. S. A.* So wherever you get it, you're getting the *right* blend of Fire Chief for the

area you're in! Fire Chief is economical, too — sells at *regular* gasoline prices!

Stop in . . . fill up with Fire Chief at your Texaco Dealer, *the best friend your car has ever had.*

★ ★ ★

**Texaco engineers analyzed more than 40 years of weather records . . . then divided the U. S. into 25 weather areas.*



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TUNE IN . . . Metropolitan Opera broadcasts every Saturday afternoon. See newspaper for time and station.



PERFECT ALIBI

By
OCTAVUS
ROY
COHEN

The detective knew that
Ernie would come up with an
alibi. Could it be broken?

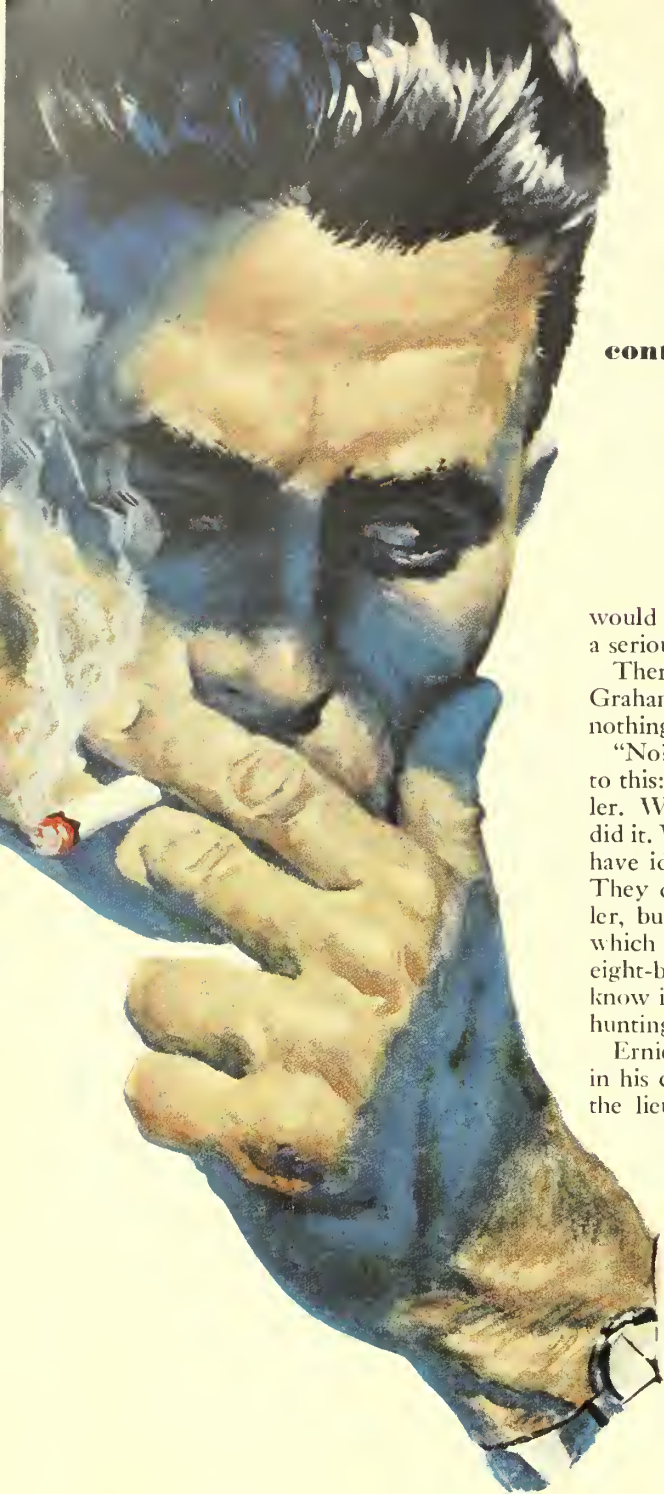
AT 10 o'clock Thursday night two detectives from the Hollywood station picked up Ernie Graham in his shabby hotel and took him in for questioning.

Acting under orders, neither arresting officer vouchsafed a word of explanation. They told Ernie merely that he was wanted for interrogation. They drove him to the corner of De Longpre and Wilcox, conducted him to the second floor, deposited him in a squad room and notified Lieutenant Bert Lane, the night watch commander.

Lane uncoiled his long, lean, sinewy frame from his desk chair and suggested that he conduct the interrogation himself. He put a sergeant on the desk and strolled into the tiny cubicle where Ernie Graham was waiting with his hands still pinioned behind his back.

While Lieutenant Lane was unlocking the cuffs, he studied the suspect. He saw a squat, stocky, powerful man whose deep black eyes were alert and whose expression was sullen. Ernie, figured Lieutenant Lane, was about 28. He was approximately five-seven in height, weighed in the neighborhood of 180 and he looked like the type of person with whom it might be unpleasant to tangle.

(Continued on next page)



continued

PERFECT ALIBI



would be wise to talk, too. Murder is a serious charge."

There was a flicker of fear in Ernie Graham's eyes. He said, "I don't know nothing about no murder."

"No? That's interesting. Now listen to this: We know you killed Otto Zeigler. We know where and when you did it. We've got a raft of witnesses who have identified you from your picture. They didn't actually see you kill Zeigler, but their stories add up to a case which puts you right square behind the eight-ball. The only thing we don't know is the motive, and that's what I'm hunting for."

Ernie started to rise and settled back in his chair at a word of warning from the lieutenant. He thought for a long time before he spoke, and, when his words did come, they were flat and unemotional.

"You got the wrong guy, feller," he stated. "I never knew nobody named Zeigler. If somebody knocked him off, that's his tough luck . . . but I had nothing to do with it."

Bert Lane shook his head tolerantly. "I expected you to say that, Ernie. But it won't get you anywhere. We can prove you were with Otto Zeigler last night."

"I told you . . ."

"I heard what you told me, but I'm not impressed."

Mr. Graham was regarding his interrogator contemptuously. "I've run into some crazy cops," he stated, "but you got 'em all beat."

Lieutenant Lane was unperturbed by his prisoner's obvious hostility. "So you didn't even know Otto Zeigler, huh?"

"No."

"And you weren't at the bowling alley on Maybank near Sunset Boulevard last night around eleven o'clock?"

"No."

"Suppose I could produce a dozen witnesses who could identify you as being there?"

"It wouldn't mean nothing. I got a solid alibi."

"They all have," murmured the detective. "Alibis are a dime a dozen." He lighted a fresh cigarette from the smouldering butt of the old one. "You and Zeigler quarreled in the bowling alley. What was the beef about?"

Ernie Graham was becoming angry. "What you shootin' off your mouth for?" he demanded. "I'm tellin' you I never was in that Maybank alley. I don't bowl. I never met nobody named Otto Zeigler."

"I can prove you're lying."

"Okay. Prove it then."

"You and Zeigler had an argument about something; that much I know. The manager interfered when it looked as though there might be a battle. Zeigler left a little while later. You followed him into the parking lot where he had left his car. The parking lot attendant saw you talking to him just as he was getting into his car. He says it didn't look too serious, so he walked away. Later, he went back to get a car for another customer and he found Zeigler dead as a mackerel. You weren't anywhere around. But you were the last one seen with him, and you had taken it on the lam. What'd you do with the gun?"

Ernie Graham rose and started pacing the room. His forehead was beaded with perspiration. Bert Lane gave him plenty of rope, plenty of time.

At first, the stocky suspect confined himself to a few choice obscenities having to do chiefly with the stupidity of cops in general and Lieutenant Bert Lane in particular. Then he announced that he didn't have a gun, had never owned one—and he repeated again and again, as though to convince himself, that he didn't know the murdered man and had never visited the Maybank alleys at any time during the previous night, or on any other night.

"What were you and Zeigler quarreling about?" persisted Lane.

ILLUSTRATED BY FRANK MCCARTHY

The detective lieutenant settled himself in a chair, took a cigarette for himself, put one in the prisoner's mouth, and lighted it. The two men were soon sitting back comfortably in their chairs regarding each other through a haze of smoke.

Graham was sullen, Lane cordial. For a few minutes they merely looked at each other, taking stock. Then Bert Lane spoke, his manner relaxed, his tone calmly conversational.

"Let's lay it on the line, Ernie," he said quietly. "We've got you dead bang. You can take it the hard way, or you can co-operate. Which'll it be?"

Ernie Graham said, "I'm listening."

Lane grinned. "That's good. But it



"You weren't anywhere around. But you were the last one seen with him."

"Nothing. I don't know him. So how could I have a beef with a man I never even seen."

Bert said calmly, "We can make it stick, Ernie."

"Nuts! I told you I got an alibi."

"I'm not interested in your alibi. You've had twenty-four hours to think up a good one."

"You don't even want to hear it, huh?"

"Talk if you want, Ernie. But I ain't going to believe you."

"You gotta believe me," Ernie Graham leaned over the desk and spoke with desperate earnestness. "You're all wet on this, Lieutenant: believe me, you are. I told you before . . ."

"Tell me again if it'll make you feel any better, Ernie. I got lots of time to listen. But don't give me any more of that hogwash about you not being at the Maybank or about not having a beef with Zeigler."

Graham said something graphic and profane. He repeated his denials, as though by the very repetition he could prove his point. Finally Ernie ran down and Bert Lane said calmly, "Is that all?"

"Yeah."

"It ain't enough."

"What do you mean: It ain't enough? What more do you want?"

"Motive. We know you murdered Zeigler. We know you quarreled with him. Legally, that quarrel supplies all the premeditation we need. But just to wrap the package up neatly, we'd like to know *why* you quarreled."

"We didn't quarrel. We didn't, I tell you. I wasn't even there, and I can prove it."

"Sure you can." Lieutenant Lane sounded bored. "You can prove you were at the Coconut Grove, maybe, or in Las Vegas. Naaah! Ernie—you've had your chance to play ball and you wouldn't play. So we'll stick you in one of the felony cells and give you time to think things over."

"Lieutenant!" There was fierce urgency in Ernie Graham's voice. "Honest to Gawd, I wasn't where you say I was when this guy Zeigler was killed. I

was on Western Avenue having a few drinks at a place called Monk's Bar & Grill."

"That," commented Bert Lane, "is strictly for the birds."

"I'm tellin' you the truth. I can prove I was there—right at the time you say I was at the Maybank alleys. Just around eleven o'clock last night."

Lane said cautiously, "Who can you prove it by?"

"Well . . ." Ernie hesitated. "I didn't know any of the guys who was there when I was. But the bartender: he must of seen me."

"Did you take many drinks?"

"Two-three. Maybe four. I dunno exactly. But them bartenders remember. And there was two men standing next to me for a while. I offered to buy them a drink and they said No . . . but they still might remember me."

Bert Lane shook his head sadly. "You got to do an awful lot better than that," he said. "I thought you'd at least give me an alibi that sounded good. This one is as phony as a three-dollar bill."

Ernie knew how to read faces. It was evident to him that the tall, wiry detective wasn't even partly convinced. And he could tell that Bert Lane thought he had him over a barrel. "Them two men," he repeated emphatically. "An' the bartender. An' another guy I know was in there, too—just for a little while. Feller named Jonas Martin."

"Good friend of yours, this Martin?"

"Sure. We was always like *that*." He held up two fingers side by side. "He left long before I did. But he knows I was there."

Bert Lane hoisted himself to his feet. He went to the door and opened it. He called "Johnny! Don!" and the two detectives who had brought Ernie Graham in answered the summons.

Bert motioned toward the suspect. "Book him," he ordered.

"What charge, Lieutenant?"

"Suspicion of murder."

Ernie Graham gave vent to a loud groan. "It's nothin' but a roust," he protested. "You gotta have a victim, so you pick on me. I got a perfect alibi—"



"You haven't any alibi at all," stated Bert Lane coldly. "Not even the ghost of a one."

"But I been tellin' you over an' over that . . ."

Lane addressed his words again to the two detectives. "Suspicion of murder," he repeated sternly. "He admits he was at the place, and that was all we needed to know."

The detective named Don glanced from the lieutenant to the prisoner. "So you've established that he definitely was there, huh?"

"Yep. He (Continued on page 44)

Where do we stand today with

By J. EDGAR HOOVER,

**Director of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation, answers some questions
that puzzle many Americans.**



Question: *Has there been a decline in recent years in the number of communists in the United States?*

Answer: Yes. In January, 1947, there were approximately 74,000 members of the Communist Party in the United States. In July, 1948, the top twelve Communist Party leaders were indicted on charges of violation of the Smith Act. This was the first legal action instituted against the top leadership of the Communist Party. In January, 1949, party membership was approximately 54,000. On October 14, 1949, the Communist Party leaders were found guilty. As of December 31, 1949, party membership numbered less than 53,000. On June 25, 1950, the war in Korea began; and on September 23, 1950, the Internal Security Act of 1950, which called for the registration of all communist action organizations, went into effect. By December 31, 1950, party membership in the United States numbered less than 44,000. On June 4, 1951, the Smith Act was upheld constitutionally, and during the summer of 1951, additional communist leaders were indicted under this act. By January, 1952, party membership totaled less than 32,000; and as of September 30, 1953, it numbered approximately 24,000. That is a decrease of 50,000 members, or about two-thirds of the total membership, since January, 1947.

Question: *Has there been a corresponding decline in communist influence in the United States?*

Answer: I would not say that communist influence has declined in direct ratio to the decrease in members. The influence of the communist movement can never be determined in terms of members. Many of the members who have dropped out of the Communist Party are still sympathetic with some of the aims of the party and can still be counted on to assist in certain phases of party work. The large number of members who have defected or have been expelled in recent years does not represent the most influential or the most devoted members. Those who now

remain in the Communist Party are essentially the real nucleus of hard-core communists who are devoted to Marxism-Leninism and are willing to obey any party instructions. Essentially they are the members who were the most influential six years ago. The party still has its publications, its schools and its fellow travelers. On the other hand, the prosecution and incarceration of the leading functionaries have forced the current leadership underground, which has hurt their effectiveness. Public exposure has neutralized the influence of many other members. These factors have been a damaging blow to the over-all influence of the party.

Question: *What has been the greatest blow suffered by the communists in this country in recent years?*

Answer: Unquestionably, the greatest blow they have suffered has been the successful prosecution by the Government of over 60 of their leaders for violation of the Smith Act. This has deprived the party of much of its most powerful leadership, disrupted many of its operations and heavily drained its financial resources. It has thrown confusion, uncertainty and fear into the rank-and-file membership. It has made them realize how thoroughly they have been investigated for a long period of time and how closely their activities have been observed, with the result that they have gone underground and have invoked such strict security measures among the membership that they cannot operate nearly so effectively as in past years. It has revealed to them that some of their most trusted

COMMUNISM *in the* UNITED STATES ?

comrades were actually informants for the Government, which has created suspicion and distrust of their associates. It has caused many of the less devoted Marxists to drop out of the party, and some of them to make a full disclosure to the FBI of their knowledge of communist activities. It has turned the spotlight on the communist conspiracy against this country, so that the American public has now seen it in true perspective and has taken an enlightened stand against this foreign-inspired menace. This positive action by the Government has been and continues to be a staggering blow to the Communist Party.

Question: *What is our greatest present danger from American communism?*

Answer: So long as public opinion is aroused and there is widespread resistance to communist infiltration the greatest danger lies in the moment of great emergency which would arise should the Soviets try a "Pearl Harbor" sneak attack. Then, by disrupting our defense program, they could do us the most damage. It is of utmost importance to the security of our nation that we maintain a constant state of preparedness to repel successfully any attack and to deal swiftly and effectively with any aggressor. Any breakdown in our productive ability would imperil our national security now, and would create a crucial situation in the event of open hostilities. For that reason we must take every precaution to safeguard our productive might.

Question: *Do you think the public has been getting a fair picture of the danger from communists within this country?*

Answer: I feel that the press, radio, television and Congressional investigating committees have done much in recent years to educate the public as to the nature, operations and objectives of communism; and the educational program of The American Legion has been particularly effective.

Question: *Do you think the public now understands and appreciates the danger?*

Answer: Those who are interested in learning about the communist menace have certainly had the opportunity to become better informed during recent years; but, of course, there are many people who are apathetic about the danger and consequently have little or no understanding of it.

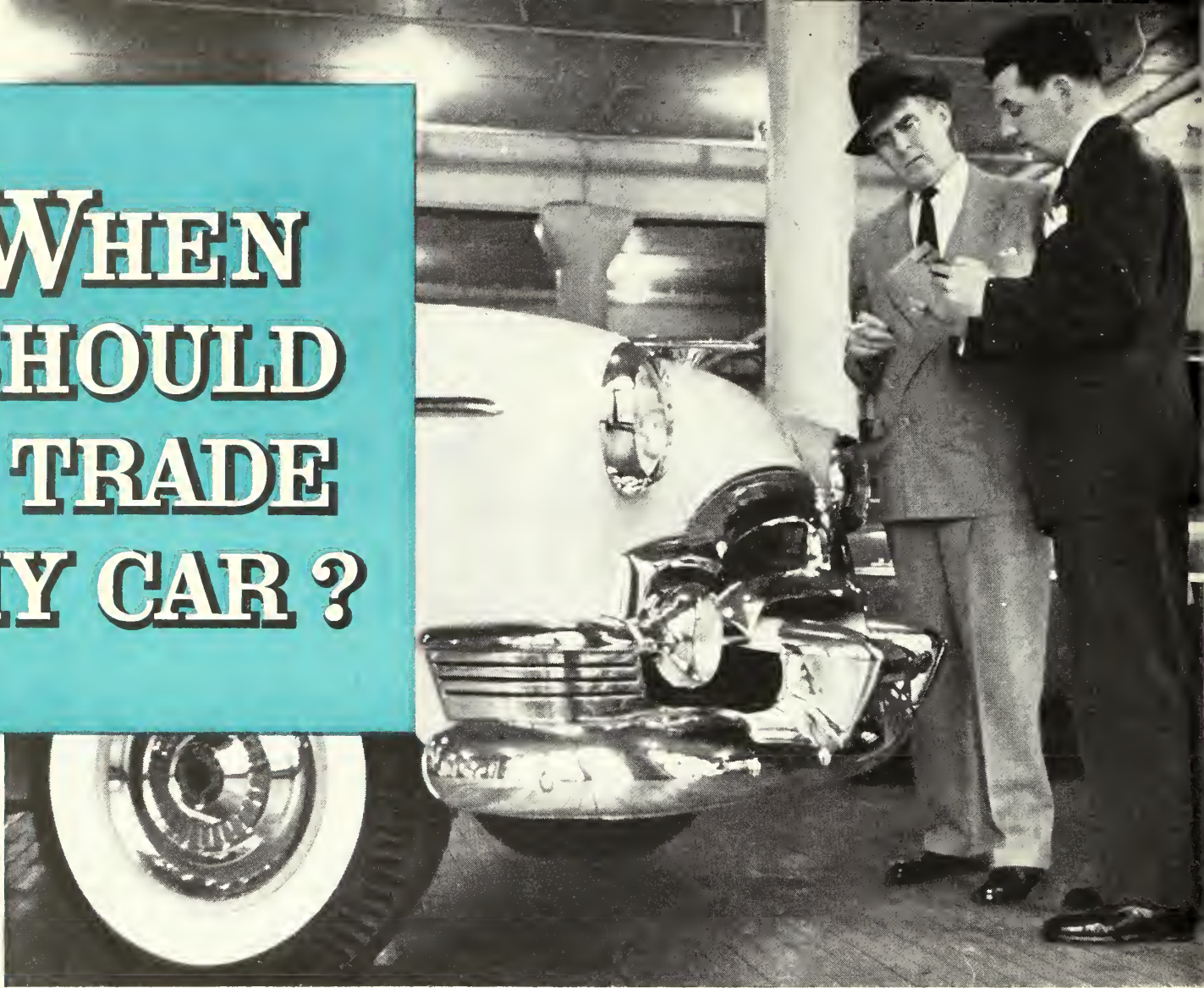
Question: *Because of the Korean War most Americans now recognize the over-all menace of armed aggression. They also know that Soviet spies have been at work in this country. However, is it not true that most Americans are hazy when it comes to communist fronts, how they operate, and what should be done about them?*

Answer: The fact that there are so many communist front groups now operating in the United States leaves no doubt that many Americans have not checked into the underlying purpose and nature of such organizations before becoming affiliated with them.

Communist front groups are organizations of a disguised character which the Communist Party uses to further its aims. They would appear on the surface not to be under communist control, and their ostensible objectives would seem to be entirely legitimate. Only in this way can they attract the support of many individuals who would not openly uphold a known Communist Party program.

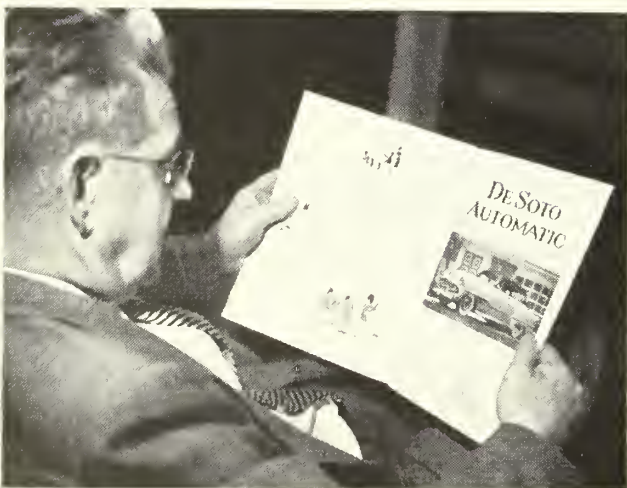
Front groups are particularly valuable to the Communist Party as a recruiting field for potential party members, as a source of funds, as a pressure group advocating a particular communist program and (Continued on page 58)

WHEN SHOULD I TRADE MY CAR?



How to decide when it will pay to get a new automobile.

By **RAY W. SHERMAN**



Everyone wants to get one of those sleek new cars described in the ads, but almost everyone has to consider cost.

GEORGE DALY was perplexed. He wanted to buy that sleek and shiny car in the magazine ad, but would it be "poor business"? After all, when a fellow's pocketbook talks he's gotta listen.

For weeks the idea had been plaguing him. Every time he looked at his still good '51 sedan something told him it wasn't getting any younger. His family concurred in this, too, but something else told him that turning it in now would be sheer extravagance.

When should a guy turn in a car? When would his cost be least? He wished he knew. Sam Severn, next door, had just turned in a year-old car. He probably didn't have any answer either, but, dag nab it! George had lived alongside Sam for fourteen years. Couldn't one fellow ask another a simple question?

Laying down his magazine, George strolled across the lot to where Sam was making fond but needless swipes with a rag at a glorious '54 creation.

"Neat bus!" George stood off and admired the gleaming newness.



The fellow who gets a car every year gets the latest innovations, such as the plastic "see-through" roof on this new Mercury.

"Slick as they come!" Sam touched an imaginary speck. Should he ask him! Why not? "Your old car wasn't very old—was it?"

"Nope!" Sam enthused. "About a year! But, George—" Sam stopped wiping "—I've got this thing all figured out. I trade every year! It's cheaper!"

"Huh?" George's eyes popped. "Cheaper?"

"What does it cost me?" said Sam. "Buy for twenty-four hundred. Trade for eighteen hundred. I'm out only six hundred. And"—Sam enthused again—"I've always got a new car. Never have any repairs. Ninety-day guarantee. For a quarter of the year I'm covered if anything goes wrong. Every year the manufacturer adds some new improvement. I get 'em all. Never have to drive around envying cars that are more modern than mine because there aren't any. Upholstery always new and clean. Never buy slip covers. Let the next guy buy 'em. Floor mats always new. Wipers always wipe. Seat always slides. Engine zippy. No noise. No brake trouble. No tire trouble—unless I pick up a nail. Haven't had a flat in three years. George—" Sam's face grew serious—"did you ever figure what your automotive transportation is costing you?"

"Well-I-I—not exactly."

"All I'm paying is six hundred a year," said Sam. "Fifty a month. Dollar-sixty a day. I claim it's cheap!"

Cheap? Just what did it cost to run a car a year? Even more perplexed than when he came, George ambled back across the lot. At the door of his garage he looked in. His '51 was still quite "blue and beautiful." Really, it ran well. Of course, there was that little noise somewhere, but it wasn't much. On his way out of the garage George made the old, old test of a bald tire's reliability. He kicked it. It sounded okay.

Back in the house, George picked up a magazine and tried to read, but car ads stared him down. Seemed as though all of them were shouting at him. Shouting that Sam had had three new cars while George was having one. And saving money? It couldn't be! The arithmetic haze grew so thick he went to sleep.

The haze was no thinner next day. Over their lunch table he mentioned Sam's automotive philosophy to two friends. "Trade every year?" snorted Jack Nova. "Sam is nuts! So is the dealer who gave him eighteen hundred. The guy who trades every year takes a licking. A car doesn't

any more than get warmed up in a year. Sam can shout all he wants to about always having a new car, but most new cars these days aren't much, if any, better than last year's models. Style? Phooey! Do we throw away last year's suit just because style changes a bit?

"As for repairs and tires," Nova added, "Sam wants to be extravagant and is thinking up things to justify it. My floor mats aren't worn out. My upholstery isn't mussy. In fact, I buy slip covers—"

"How old is your car, anyway?" asked Bill Wilson, who owned a '52.

"Two years plus."

"Just when do you figure to trade?" asked George, no clearer in his thinking than he had been for days.

"Three years, I'd say."

"Why three years?" George's brow wrinkled.

"Way I figure it," said Nova, "is that the manufacturer builds a lot into an automobile. Take care of it and it will run a long time. But, of course—" Nova shrugged—"things do get old. By the time a fellow has had a car three years it's starting to get old and he probably is getting sick of it."

"Oh," Wilson laughed, "you buy for style."

"Nuts on style!" Nova retorted. "Sam's right about upholstery, mats and things becoming used. But it's around three years, not one year! Trade at two years? Maybe. Three years, I'd say, is the point."

"And," piped up Jerry Lavigne, "I say you're all nuts. Look!" He leaned forward over the table. "I've got a forty-one. Pre-war. They built 'em good then. It's still good. I take care of it. Anybody who says I should throw away this forty-one and buy a lot of chrome and paint is crazy."

"You're asking what a guy's transportation cost him. Mine costs darned little. Tire now and then. Brakes once in a while. Mats are cheap. So are slip covers. Wax it and the paint'll last forever. And there aren't any time payment collectors sitting on my doorstep—ever. Six hundred dollars a year?" He snorted. "At that rate he'll pay over six thousand dollars in ten years and I'll still be jogging along with my forty-one. I bet it doesn't cost me a hundred dollars a year."

"Yeah," said Nova, "and whaddyuh got? You've got a pile that's headed for the junkyard. It isn't worth a hundred bucks. Come the day you have to buy something else you're going to lose all you saved by not trading before—unless you buy another heap. On top of that, this car you've got is unreliable and you darned well know it. Get in a tight spot and you're scared stiff you won't get out. You have to nurse it, not drive it. You worry every time anyone else in the family takes it out. You—"

"Look, pal"—Lavigne pushed a palm toward Nova—"you can trade at eight years, four years, two years or ten minutes. Me? I'm driving a forty-one. Listen"—he smiled—"know what Simon Morelli, our grasscutter, drives?"

"What?"



Years ago canny buyers traded when they needed tires. It still makes sense.

(Continued on page 48)



An electric hedge trimmer can save you hours of work.

By WESLEY HAYNES

MORE MEN ARE gardening for pleasure nowadays than ever before. Businessmen who used to brag about their golf scores have now switched to bragging about their roses and rutabagas.

Does this mean we Americans have returned to the soil in some kind of spiritual rebirth? Not likely. It means that gardening is more rewarding, more *fun* than it used to be.

Time was when it was widely believed that you had to have a special knack, a green thumb, to garden successfully. Not so today. If you're smart enough to read without moving your lips, you can have a garden better than any your father ever had. You can grow dahlias tree-top tall; you can plant apple trees one year and harvest a good crop the next; you can grow tangy strawberries as big as a hen's egg—all of these are yours without back-breaking labor. Why? Because plant experts have increased the rewards of home gardening and at the same time removed most of the sweat and tears.

The current mass movement of city dwellers to more spacious suburbs has made gardeners out of a lot of men who previously never got closer to nature than a green salad. These suburbanites take up gardening with energy and enthusiasm—and they vie with each other to conquer the lawn moth and vanquish the beetle.

The man who still gardens the way his grandpa did is likely to be outstripped by his jet-propelled neighbors. Grandpa had a lot of sterling virtues, but he hadn't heard of today's chemicals and gadgets which take the groan out of gardening.

Take the old-fashioned practice of spring plowing. Big vegetable gardens used to be deeply plowed each spring. Not any more. We know now that the most valuable soil is near the surface—so we work the soil only deep enough to prepare a seedbed.

Another common practice in grandpa's time was for newlyweds to get "slips" from plants growing in their friends' gardens. This isn't done much any more, for nowadays it usually saves time and effort to go to a nursery and buy healthy, well-established plants of the kind you want.



Weeds have no place in gardens like these. New chemicals make the weed-killing job a cinch.

Still another belief now going the way of the dodo is the old saw to the effect you can't move a large shrub or tree. Even as short a time as ten years ago most homeowners bought their trees in one-gallon cans—and fidgeted for years waiting for shade. Nowadays, through our new knowledge of plant nutrition, we can move big trees right onto new property. What's more, these trees will shrug off the shock of being moved. Because of this, a homeowner may sip a mint julep under the shade of his own magnolia only months after moving in!

Some old-fashioned green-thumbers argue that the new gardening ideas are a lot of fol-de-rol. One of these disgruntled gardeners pointed to a rosebush in a neighbor's garden and said, "Look at that damned bush—it gets more pampering than I do. Gets sprays, vitamins, even hormones—the works—and it doesn't set as many blooms as my roses do. All *they* get is a shovelful of cow manure once every year!"

Gardening *Made Easy*

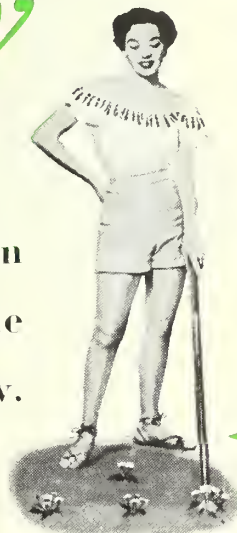
Making your home grounds attractive can be fun instead of drudgery. Best of all, the necessary tools don't cost much money.



Mixing chemicals with a stream of water, this Hydromix is a multi-purpose tool.



Water is a must for any garden. Many types of sprayers are now available.



Gadgets such as this Killer Kane permit you to apply weed-killer where it will do the greatest good.



Money invested in a power lawn mower pays off by making grass-cutting easy.

later, when your beans and corn come up, they grow fast because they don't have to compete with weeds.

Modern chemicals also make it possible to combine several garden tasks in one. Thus you may mix up a pest spray with chemicals designed to kill a wide variety of pests and fungi, and simply add it to one of the new soluble fertilizers. The whole works can be sprayed on with a simple spray attachment that fits on your garden hose—thus one easy operation not only feeds your clematis but knocks out its enemies at the same time.

Also brand new in the field of chemical gardening is a product called FTE. The name stands for fritted trace elements.

Such trace elements as iron and zinc and others are fused into glass-hard particles which break down slowly when placed on the soil around your plants. Because of this slow disintegration, there's little chance of burning a plant's roots.

As in every other aspect of today's living, plastics are very big in the garden.

One of the trickiest ways in which you can use a plastic in your garden is in the type of propagation known as air layering.

Air layering isn't new—it was used by the Chinese centuries ago—but it used to be difficult. Now, with plastic, it affords an easy way to multiply a shrub or tree you particularly prize.

It works this way: Take a woody plant which is hard to root in any of the usual ways, select a well-shaped branch on it and girdle it lightly with a sharp knife. Then wrap the branch—for about two inches on both sides of the girdle-cut—with dampened sphagnum (*Continued on page 61*)

He was right. His roses *were* better. The only thing wrong with his modern neighbor's methods were: he was giving his roses too *much* of everything.

But for the gardener who uses the new chemicals in the moderate amounts recommended, the results will be gratifying. Chemicals will aid him in killing weeds, fumigating soil to kill the nematodes, insects and fungi, convert hard, clay soil into mellow loam—and, wonder of wonders, even slow down the growing speed of grass in those hard-to-mow spots!

Weed killers and insecticides have long been handy aids for gardeners, but to be successful with them you must exert real care. For example, a selective weed killer to knock out plantain and dandelion in your lawn must be handled with every precaution: a little of that lethal spray drifting onto a lilac bush will kill it, too.

Pre-emergence weed-killers are a new wrinkle now being taken over by the home gardener from the farmer. One such spray is ACP-L-195. With it, you prepare your seed bed, plant your seed, and then spray the surface. It knocks out fast-sprouting weeds as soon as they come up. A little



These Days

George E. Sokolsky

(Copyright 1941)

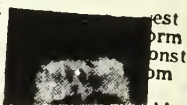
Bricker Amendment A Safeguard

By George Sokolsky

Nehru May Learn Treachery Unwise

India Maneuvers

The game of international broker can only be played by the most brilliant minds. At that game, Talleyrand and Bismarck were masters. Woodrow Wilson tried it before and during the Paris Peace Conference.



His friends call him

"SOK"

Millions of Americans read and listen to George E. Sokolsky

because they know he is on their side—as an American.

By **NORMAN BEASLEY**

HE IS ON THE short side in elevation and on the full side in steerage; his hair is thick and dark despite his 60 years; his eyes are small, brown and intense; his face mobile, his voice inclined to harshness with the harshness being lost in the earnestness of his words.

A cigar, or a pipe, usually juts from his lips; his hands are tools of expression; his conversation is on any subject a visitor wants to talk about, provided there is light shining through it—and, he is equally willing to listen, or talk.

He is a deep man and a religious man; he doesn't play golf, or cards, or frequent night clubs because he prefers to work; he is a family man and being a family man he is an enemy of communism, which he knows from close-up.

He gets more than 600 letters a week and answers all of them, writes a column of 700 words that appears in nearly 350 newspapers six times a week, broadcasts over a network of radio stations once a week, 52 weeks a year; writes editorials for the *New York Mirror*, makes nearly 100 speeches a year and has time to speak from church pulpits; does his own legwork as a reporter; grows trees on a Massachusetts farm of more than 300 acres and, now and then, writes a book.

No, I did not forget to tell you his name.

It's just that I wanted first to tell you something about how he looks, and

what he does with his time.

His name is George E. Sokolsky.

He is my friend of years, and how he does as much as he does, and writes as well as he does, is so far beyond my comprehension that, as a writer, I have no sense of envy—only a sense of gratitude that he is on your side, and on my side, as an American.

SOKOLSKY was born in Utica, N. Y., September 5, 1893, of a people who, for centuries, were wanderers over Europe—for the most part, wanderers who were rabbis and musicians. His boyhood was the ghetto which was New York's lower East Side. Here he went to public school and, out of school hours, worked as an office boy on a neighborhood newspaper, starting to work at the age of ten years.

Solomon Sokolsky, his father, was a rabbi and a man of learning who never wanted to be anything but what he was—a man of God and a minister for His people. Before she met Solomon, his mother, Bertha Rappaport, worked in a cigar factory. Married, she raised the children and managed a small restaurant that supplied the money for the clothes, the shoes, the food, the rent,



This page from the family album shows Mr. and Mrs. George E. Sokolsky with children Dorothy and George, Jr., plus dog Brownie.

and all the other items that are needed, even by the poor; together, Solomon and Bertha Sokolsky supplied the love and instruction that made crowded rooms in a tenement a home.

In 1917, their son George graduated from Columbia University, and a course in journalism. Almost immediately he went to Russia as a correspondent in Petrograd for a newly-organized Russian news service. The venture was not successful, and Sokolsky was offered a job as a mail clerk in the American Embassy, or as Editor of the *Russian Daily News*, an English newspaper and

PHOTOS BY ANGELA CALOMIRIS

Depreciation Of Dollar Cuts Our Wealth In Half

GEORGE SOKOLSKY

Depreciation Of Dollar Cuts Our Wealth In Half

NEW YORK — Government statistics report that for five months in succession the cost of living of the American people has risen. That used to be called the High Cost of Living. In fact, those who enjoy breaking everything down into initials referred to it as H. C. L.

Actually, this means that the value of the dollar has gone down. Recalculated, the American dollar is moving in the direction of a 50-cent piece, about the equivalent of a ruble or a yen in 1914. That means that Americans have lost half of the private wealth accumulated prior to the present inflation. That means that insurance policies purchased with 100-cent dollars are now exactly half of what they were when bought.

That means that if you put in savings accumulation, you will not get the same return as you did before.

purchasing power decreases as it remains idle.

How any of us are going to meet our taxes next March is a puzzle. Squeezed between the cost of living and high taxes, the economic middle class, the salaried people, those who earn their money by thinking and managing, are wiped out. It is no wonder that of inflation for the salary group, the salaries suffer most. They protect themselves by saving.

THREE

We are three times as rich as we were in 1914, but we are worth less than we were then.

His literary output includes columns, articles, scripts, books and letters.



In June 1917, Alexander Kerensky was a leader in the revolution that overthrew the government of Czar Nicholas and, in October of the same

- 1** Graduating from Columbia, he went to Russia as a news correspondent, then to the Orient.
- 2** His Sunday night broadcasts over American Broadcasting Company are heard by millions.

A man of strong opinions, Sokolsky likes nothing better than to take the other side in argument. Here he holds forth with old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kohlberg.



As an editor in Petrograd, then the capital of Russia, Sokolsky saw communism in full performance in seizing control of a government.

"I attended meetings of the Constituent Assembly after Kerensky had disappeared," he recalled. "Here the representatives of the Russian people were foregathered. The Bolsheviks (communists) were a tiny minority. Did they mind? Not at all. Lenin waved his hand to his secretary in the balcony and smiled—it was a gesture to show how his mind was upon the tragic struggle for Russian freedom.

"Then he came no more. No Bolshevik appeared. The representatives of the Russian people—like our Congress—they sat and waited. . . . Men stood in groups and spoke to one another. Not a person smiled. Then there was a prolonged silence.

"Finally the president of the Constituent Assembly arose to speak his mind on behalf of the representatives of the Russian people. The assembly half filled with troops. One approached the dais.

"Comrade, you have spoken enough," the soldier said. "Go home!"

"The representatives of the Russian people dispersed. A minority had conquered Russia by organized minority pressure. . . ."

Sokolsky wrote in such anger that one day, suddenly, he was shoved on a train leaving Petrograd in the direction of China.

The train was dirty and slow. Russia is vast. As a country it had not been taken over entirely by the communists and, in each large city, the train's locomotive was seized by a committee of communists, or White Russians, and prolonged negotiations followed — between such committees and those on the train. About six weeks later the train arrived in Harbin, in central Manchuria. It was the end of the journey. Sokolsky had the equivalent of one dollar in his pocket.

He made his way to Peiping, to Tientsin, to Shanghai; and, to use his own words, he "became steeped in the Chinese revolution, and then to learn to love an alien people." Dreading of interpreting an ancient land, its culture, and its history to America, he put aside all immediate thought of returning to his homeland, and became a resident of China.

HE LEARNED to speak Chinese; he associated with Chinese scholars; he worked on newspapers in China; he was correspondent for American and Eng-

(Continued on page 45)

By **ROBERT UHL**

FUNNY THING about shooting. Not shots fired in anger, but shooting for pleasure. It means different things to different people. We hear about the 17 million hunters. We read about shooting Kodiak bears in Alaska, moose in Canada, lions in Africa. Sure we'd like to try that kind of shooting, but it takes time we haven't got, money we'd do something else with if we had it, mountains of special equipment, skills (to hear the returning Nimrods tell it) not one man in a thousand can boast. All for the head of a rare beast to argue about with your wife, and end up giving to your Post; or a rhinoceros-hide souvenir which has no practical use whatever except maybe to cover a rhinoceros with.

Then there's the hunting we can do closer to home. Ducks and geese, pheasant, quail, rabbits, doves, maybe even a whitetail or a muley. But that's not so easy, either, nor so cheap. Generally you have only a few weeks open season, which comes when your work is at its busiest, and when you should be saving your shekels for the twin tributes to Santa Claus and the tax gatherer. When you do go out, your wife, your boss and your non-hunting friends look skeptical or scornful. You come back, half the time, with nothing but sore feet. Then you're the fall guy for a lot of stale, belittling so-called wisecracks. Or you do get yourself a deer or a duck or two. You've got to dress it out, to skin it or pluck it, like as not cook it, and then eat it, which too often is the hardest part of all.

Formal target shooting has its adherents—rifle, pistol, trap and skeet. Lots of fun, if there's a range near you and you've got an understanding wife, a fond uncle to give you the specialized small arms you need as a birthday pres-

ent, and some modicum of skill or an expert and patient instructor to start with. Even so, some Legionnaires feel they've had enough of that "Ready on the right? Ready on the left?" stuff. Especially the pit details.

Tough lines, buddy? Not for the plinker. There's no conflict between plinking and the widespread popularity of money. The rimfire .22 cartridge costs only a fraction more than a single penny. All seasons are open seasons. Your equipment needn't cost more than a couple of nights out. You don't need a travel agent to help you get where you can shoot. The nearest abandoned farm, sand pit, quarry or swamp—even a dump—will serve nicely. Nobody will rib you for not bringing home Baby Bunting's rabbit skin, nor will anyone ask you to dress, skin or eat your targets. Punctured tin cans are not staple diet except to goats. Plinking has everything! Whether you used

to sport a Distinguished Marksman badge on your blouse or were a Maggie's drawers rifleman, read on. I have news for you.

The plinker is the king of the sporting fraternity. Some say the rabbit is the most popular target in America—or the squirrel or upland game. Bunk! More shooters shoot more ammunition at used tin cans than at all other targets, animate or inanimate, put together. There are about 100 million rounds of center-fire sporting ammunition produced in this country every year, about 5 or 600 million shot shells, and two billion rimfire .22's. What is the principal target for .22's? You tell me!

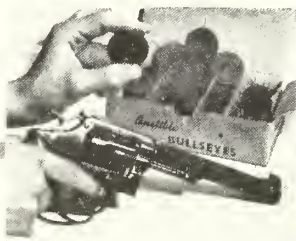
It is a serious fact that American sportsmen, supporting as we do a privately owned industry making sporting arms and ammunition, provide this country with a backlog of manufacturing experience and ability which is of tremendous value when the chips are down, yet which costs the government nothing in normal times (if we ever have them again). In fact, it pays taxes



A-PLINKING *you should go*

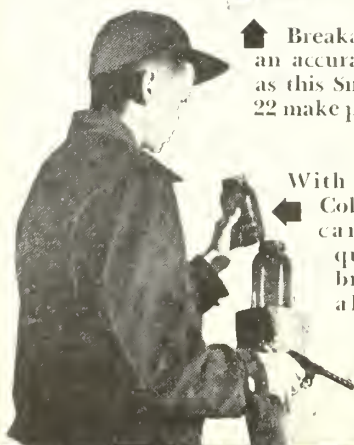
All you need is an inexpensive rifle such as this Remington and some ammunition.

Every year hundreds of millions of bullets are fired at tin cans, bottles and other convenient targets. Here is the story behind plinking and how it can be made more interesting.



➤ Breakable bullseyes and an accurate handgun such as this Smith & Wesson K-22 make plinking more fun.

➤ With a fast shooting Colt Woodsman you can get off shots quick enough to break two bottles almost at once.





With a swinging can, the trick is to lead the target. The rifle is a Savage.



A lot of .22's went through this boy's Mossberg to create this work of art.



Shooting into bottle-necks calls for a good eye. The Winchester rifle helps.



A good shot can snuff out candles with an accurate rifle such as this Marlin.



Hitting a clay pigeon with a rifle takes lots of practice. The rifle here is a Noble.



Used flashbulbs make fine targets and this Harrington & Richardson rifle shatters 'em.

PHOTOS BY DONATO LEO

as well. This helps our national economy as well as national defense. Our national economy supports the United Nations collectively and individually, and thus the freedom and well-being of humanity. I often think of this when I am knocking empty tomato cans off a stump with my Remington. I for one am proud to shoot holes in tin cans for humanity.

It's not likely you'll ever see a color picture of a flying tin can on the front cover of *The American Legion Magazine*. Artists prefer ducks and tigers and quail and other dramatic creatures for cover paintings. This is unfair to our most popular quarry. Yet the plinker who sticks exclusively to stationary tin cans is cheating himself. Sure it's fun. As the Irishman said about whiskey, "All whiskey is good; some's just better'n others." All plinking is good, though one kind may be somewhat better than others. Acceptable targets include clods of hard earth, bits of coal,

sea shells, marbles and other objects which shatter on impact. Small cubes of wood sawed from a 2x2 will smash very satisfactorily. Discarded potatoes respond well, and aged eggs may be converted into a yellow streak across the sky. Stand to windward of that egg, though, especially if you've had it awhile. Breakable bullseyes the size of poker chips are a lot of fun and obtainable from most sporting goods dealers.

Here are a few simple games you can try when plinking with friends. Divide the group into two teams. Set up two groups of five or more targets. Members of the opposing teams pair off, and step to the firing line together. Each man fires one shot at each of his five targets. His teammates do the same. Score is tallied by the number of targets broken. This game gets harder when you put a time limit on the firing—say 10 seconds for 5 shots, and then make the time interval progressively shorter.

Miss-and-out is a good game. Each shooter fires till he misses. Another is "Hit and Move Back." Set up about 10 targets. A shooter steps to the firing line and shoots once. If he breaks the target, he takes one step back, fires at the next, and so on till he misses. Object is to see how far back you can move from the original firing line. Remember to keep those who aren't shooting *behind* the shooter. Surprise targets can also be rigged up, pivoting on a dowel, or hinged so they can be pulled up and down with a string. There are all sorts of variations of this kind which you can work out yourself.

But this is beginners' stuff, recommended when you first start showing off in front of that youngster of yours, who believes the only reason you didn't get the Congressional Medal of Honor is because there is no justice.

The sophomore stage comes when you start playing around with fancy
(Continued on page 41)

By 1960 we will have
...SO MANY CHILDREN
we may not know what to do ...

The old woman who lived in a shoe had nothing on Uncle Sam. The steady increase in the number of American children keeps catching us unready.

By MYRON M. STEARNS

IS YOUR YOUNG son or daughter having to share a seat and desk at school with some other child? In some city schools it has to be done; there are so many more children than the schools can accommodate that students have to attend in shifts. It is like having to eat at the first or second table aboard ship.

All over the country schools are crowded. In Toms River, N. J.; in Akron, O.; in Marysville, Calif. New elementary schools are being rushed to completion; classes of 40 or even 45 first or second graders are found, more than a teacher can handle, where there should be only 25 or 30, or 35 at the outside.

Here at the beginning of 1954 there are more two-year-olds, six-year-olds, ten and eleven-year-olds than anyone believed possible ten years ago. On January 1, 1940, there were 10,641,524 children under five in this country; by 1950 the number had risen to 16,163,773, up nearly 60 percent. Today the total has swollen to more than 17,000,000.

Even the birth rate, as well as the total, has gone up. For decades, until about the middle of World War II, 280 or so women out of every thousand of child-bearing age gave birth to a child. In 1947, 367 women out of every thousand who could, bore a child. Until 1940 there were never as many as three million children born in any one year; now there are nearly four million. In 1952 there were 3,824,000 births.

As this tidal wave of children sweeps into adolescence we're going to have the tremendous problem of bringing them up properly, educating them to take over the country when the time comes. It is an opportunity such as has never been presented before. It is also a tremendous responsibility, carrying an equally great hazard.

In 1950 there were 10,616,291 boys and girls of high-school age, 15 to 19, in the United States. Everything seemed easy as eating pie, because, owing to fewer births in the years right after the depression, there were a million and a half *less* high-schoolers than there were in 1940. But by 1960 there will be more than 15 million of them. So there will

be nearly half again as many 'teenagers in 1960 as there were in 1950.

Think what that means!

Today there are 16,000 Junior Baseball teams sponsored by The American Legion. By 1960, just to keep up with the same proportion of boy population, there will have to be 24,000.

In 1953 some 325,000 boys and girls took part in the National High School Oratorical Contests of the Legion. That big number had risen 25,000 in four years—up from 300,000 in 1949. But, just to hold even, the total will have to jump to 462,500 by 1960.

Take Scouting. It's admittedly one of the best outside-of-school developers of leadership and character we have; in 1952 there were 3,808 Scout units sponsored by the Legion. Almost as many as the top figure of 3,996 in 1950. *But by 1960, just to keep from falling back, there will have to be 6,000.*

To bring 15 million 'teen-agers, half as many again as we've ever had before, to successful maturity is a job with so many phases that it staggers the imagination. We want to help them to become men and women who are a credit to the country, to their parents, to the communities in which they live. Can it be done? Education, in its larger sense, is something that goes on all the time. It comes from home surroundings, from companions, from games, from lounging on street corners, from driving hot-rods or fantastically painted and mottoed jalopies, from well-chaperoned dances and from furtive drinking parties, from soda-fountain conversations.

What are the conditions going to be that this vast army of ours, of brand-new teen-agers, is going to have to face?

What does half-again as many teen-agers mean in terms of high school buildings, teachers, crowded living, gangsterism vs. adult leadership, recreation buildings, juvenile delinquency, Scouting, polio, drug addiction, camping for city children, outdoor play areas, rehabilitation for the unlucky and a thousand other matters that affect the development



◀ The war babies (top) caused a big grade-school expansion (center). Now, as teenagers, they need more high schools than there are.

of our youth? It means there's plenty to do.

Where slum conditions give the boys and girls who have to live there the wrong sort of education they become the wrong sort of citizens. "Juvenile delinquents," we call them, in a sort of cross between pity and contempt. But they didn't go wrong suddenly, nor in a way of their own volition. It takes time to make a juvenile delinquent. Usually there are a lot of times when a helping hand along the way would have made a difference.

About a million potentially delinquent boys and girls are picked up by the police each year for some juvenile folly of one sort or another. What will that number be in 1960? Stealing automobiles—sometimes on nothing more than a sudden impulse to drive a car and have a ride—is one of the most common 'teen-age crimes; larceny—stealing something that is wanted, before the sense of property rights has become very deeply imbedded—is the commonest of all. About 350,000 of these kids are taken to court. Some 115,000 spend a night or two in jail. Perhaps 75,000 get a short jail sentence. Around 35,000 are sent to a reform school or some other institution for delinquents. After that they're usually goners.

But notice: nine out of ten, even of those who are taken to court, may still be salvaged. If they get the right help, at the right time.

"The 'teen-age years," welfare people say, "are the tough years. Once a boy or girl manages to get through them without a real crack-up things usually come out all right. The personal drive that starts a youngster wrong may be the very thing that determines a winner in later life—if there's no bad wreck in adolescence."

"The Salvation Army," Randel Shake, Director of the Legion's Child Welfare Division told me, "beats a drum to get a crowd. But it knows that the drum must be banged at the right place, at the right time."

With our tidal wave of teen-agers of all kinds coming along, the right place to begin helping potential juvenile delinquents may be in slum clearance, and the right time may be right now. The circumstances that make for the wrong kind of education must be bettered, and not allowed to get worse as they have at times in the past. The number of juvenile delinquents brought into court rose 17 percent from 1948 to 1951. Burglaries by youths under 21 were 20 percent higher in 1949 than they were in 1945.

The war against drugs, in this same connection, has to be a continuous one. Brand-new drug combinations come out, with opportunities for attacks on susceptible teen-agers by unscrupulous criminals, because of the fat profits there are in the racket. Recently various sleeping pills and stimulants have come into the market.

In Seattle, Washington, an inspector posed as a Skid Row character to learn the source of gang drugs that were (*Continued on page 50*)

DO YOU WANT A

If you are thinking of getting another house these tax pointers can help you save money on the transaction.

By **CLARK E. BOWEN AND HORACE COON**

WHEN YOU sell your house for more than you paid for it you probably think you have made a profit. But wait a minute. Before you count any folding money, ask: What does the Federal income man have to say about this "profit"?

The chances are that just before you sell your house, or just afterwards, you will be thinking of buying another house. After all, you must have a place to live. In this double transaction of selling one house and buying another, Mr. Income Tax is looking right over your shoulder.

That fellow is pretty important because the so-called "profit" you made on the sale of your house may disappear very quickly. Before 1951 it vanished almost before you could lay your hands on it. The "profit" might exist only on paper, not in cold U. S. cash. That did not matter to the Internal Revenue Bureau. You were taxed anyway. You were hit hard with taxes on imaginary profits, on profits which produced no greenbacks with which to pay the tax.

Such a homeowner—he may have been you—may have bought his house for \$10,000. Real estate values skyrocketed so that the house had a value of \$15,000. Then he had to move. He got a better job in another city. Then he bought a house for \$15,000 and, at the same time, sold his old home for \$15,000. He used that fifteen grand to buy the new house.

To Mr. Homeowner that looked like an even swap. But oh, no, said the Federal tax boys. He was told by the U. S. Government that he had made a "profit" on the old house of \$5,000 because he had bought it for \$10,000 and sold it for \$15,000. That was called a "capital gain." And on that so-called "capital gain" the U. S. tax collector demanded 25%. Furthermore, and worse, he had to pay the tax at the end of that same year. The tax amounted to \$1,250. Where was he going to get it?

That hurt. It was, to put it mildly, unjust, a hardship, an outrage. So in 1951 Congress relented and made it easier. But if you are thinking of buying, selling, or exchanging your home residence, you ought to know, before you do anything at all, just how much easier, precisely how much easier in dollars and cents it may be for you now. There are some catches in it you need to know about.

If you make a profit on the sale of your house, you still have to pay a Federal income tax on that gain. However, there is now a special rule that applies to the sale, or exchange, of a personal residence. This rule applies to that so-called profit. And by "personal residence" the law means exactly what it says: the place you call your home, and it is determined by the facts and circumstances in each case.

A personal residence can mean a houseboat, a trailer, a log cabin. It may even mean stock held in a cooperative apartment building if that is where you actually live. The 1951 rule says that now you do not have to pay tax on the "profit" you make on the sale of your residence at the time the sale is made.

But wait a second. There's a catch to this: You do not have to pay a tax when you sell the old house if—and this is a very important if—you buy a new residence within one year after you sell the old one. And when you buy that residence you have to live in it. You may, if you wish, buy the new house first, before you sell the old one. But you have to sell the old house within one year after buying the new one.

Hold on a minute. There's more to this. After you sell the old place, and within a year's time buy a new one, you have to live in it. If, instead of buying a new house, you want to build one, you can do that. But the U. S. tax collector says you must start building that new house within a year after selling the old one. And you have to do this building right away, because the law demands that you live in the new house within 18 months after you start building.

That may change your personal plans a little, but that is the ruling. As to this so-called profit, if any, on the old house: the government is broadminded and big-hearted if there is no profit. You do not have to pay a tax if there is no gain. If you pay for the new house exactly what you obtained for the old then there is no gain, hence no tax.

If, however, you pay less for the new house than you obtained for the old one, then you have made a recognized gain. The recognized gain is the amount by which the selling price of the old exceeded the purchase price of the new. You're taxed only on that excess. In figuring the selling price of your old house, you figure everything into it: in addition to the cash you figure in any mortgages, trusts, deeds, notes, or bonds.

You cannot pretend to the tax collector that no such transaction took place. If you buy and sell you have to follow the terms of the rule. Even if you want to pay a tax on the sale of your house at the time of the sale, or at the end of the year in which the sale is made, you are not allowed to do it.

Members of the armed forces are allowed a break. The one-year period for buying, or the construction period of 18 months, is suspended while the serviceman is in service on actual duty. However, the sale had to be made before January 1, 1954 and the period of suspension lapses after four years from the date of the sale, or December 31, 1957 at the latest.

Two other points need to be made here: If you have owned your house less than six months, and have to pay a tax on the sale, you pay a tax on all of your gain. But if you have owned the house more than six months, then you pay a tax on only one-half the gain.

The other point is this: What if you lose on the sale? You lose, that's all. You are not allowed to deduct any loss on the sale of a residence no matter how long you've owned it. That may not seem quite fair. You may get indignant

DIFFERENT HOUSE ?



Young families are looking for more spacious accommodations . . .



. . . while older people are thinking in terms of compact quarters.

about it. But that is the law. The government takes a share of your gain but refuses to share in your loss.

Let's compare the experiences of five gentlemen who may be friends of yours: A, B, C, D, and E. Look at their cases this way: Each had a house bought early in 1951; each sold his house with these results:

Cost	Sold in '52 for:	New house bought for:	Result:
A \$8,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	No recognized gain, hence no tax
B \$6,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	No gain, hence no tax.
C \$6,000	\$ 4,000	Does not buy a house	Loss on transaction not deductible.
D \$4,000	\$ 6,000	Does not buy a house	Must pay tax on half the gain.
E \$4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,000	Must pay tax on half the gain.

Mr. A did not have to pay a tax because the selling price of the old house was less than what he paid for the new one. Mr. B did not pay a tax because he paid the same for

the new as he got for the old. Mr. C suffered a loss, but his loss was not deductible. Mr. D did not buy a new house within a year so he had to pay a tax on half of his profit on the sale of the old house. Mr. E gained \$2,000; he had to pay an income tax on half of that.

Maybe you have a couple of questions. You may ask: "Can I keep on selling and buying houses for the next 50 years and pay no tax?" Yes, provided you pay for each house exactly what you obtained from the old one, or the selling price for the old never exceeds the purchase price for the new. You could, in theory, work a deal like this: Buy a house for \$1,000, live in it, hold it for a year, then sell it for \$2,000, hold that for a year, then sell it for \$4,000, hold that for a year, then sell it for \$6,000. You have to live in each of these houses, and buy each succeeding house for equal or more than you got for the preceding one. Since the total time of ownership of each was more than six months, you'd pay a tax on only half of your \$5,000 total profit after the last sale, supposing you stopped there. Nobody, however, has tried to keep this up for 50 years.

Or you may ask: "Supposing I (Continued on page 56)

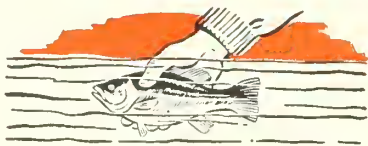
LEGION ROD & GUN CLUB



By JACK DENTON SCOTT

Before we know it, March will be moving on and we'll find ourselves standing hip-deep in a cold trout stream. Fish hatcheries throughout the country report they are operating at capacity and everything augurs well for a nice, fat season ahead.

We feel so confident about it that we're going to start off this month with a suggestion for releasing fish in case you catch too many and want to give them back to the stream.



Gently hold the fish (after you've carefully removed the hook, of course) in a slight current with its head facing upstream for just a moment or two until it gains its equilibrium and is able to hold its upright swimming position. Don't squeeze or handle the fish roughly. If the fish you've hooked is exhausted from its efforts to get off the hook, be careful. Quite often if you just put it back in the stream it will go to the bottom, lie on its side and become drowned by bottom mud and muck which is taken in its gills, or by its very inability to open and close its gill covers. So give the fish and the next fisherman a break.

R. T. Billings tells us that the Hastings Company, 2314 Market Street, Philadelphia, is manufacturing a gold carbon paper which makes it a simple matter to personalize fishing rods and equipment. All you have to do is place the gold paper, shiny side out, against the metal or wooden portion of your rod, then write your name. The name is clearly transferred in gold. Mr. Billings then sprays the result with clear krylon to preserve it indefinitely. We tried it and it works like a charm.

A. H. Cansey, Johnson City, Tenn., imparts this tart bit:

"This idea might stink, but it works. When fishing, try placing a couple of cloves of garlic in your can of worms to eliminate the mouldy scent."

Blake Anderson, Jr., feels that the opening of the fishing season will be chilly. He says, "I find that if I clean my fishing reel with gasoline and then use vaseline as a lubricant, it works well in cold weather."

The Colt's Manufacturing Company announces the production of a new revolver, claimed to be the most accurate heavy-duty service gun ever developed.

The new Colt "Trooper" combines the well-known adjustable Accro rear target sight with a quick-draw ramp-type front sight, giving target accuracy in a holster sidarm.

Specifications for the new Colt "Trooper" are: calibers .38 Special (mid-range, regular and high-speed loads); .22 Long Rifle (regular or high-speed loads); length overall, 9 1/4"; length of barrel, 4". Both models have non-slip, close-grained walnut stocks as well as the hammer safety, and double cylinder-lock features that make Colt revolvers popular with law enforcement officers and sportsmen.

The stock model of the new Colt "Trooper" retails for \$71.50. Also available on special order with fast-cocking wide spur hammer (\$2.75 extra) and full-checkered tournament type custom walnut stocks, (\$5.50 extra). If purchased as accessories, price of the wide spur hammer is \$6.50, the custom stock \$7.50.

Thomas H. Newton of Camden, Ark., has a thought about keeping your tackle box in shape:

"March is the time to start tinkering with your tackle box," he says. "First remove rust and dead paint with steel wool and apply a high-grade enamel both inside and out. After the enamel has dried, cut a rubber mat from an old inner tube to fit the inside bottom. This prevents tools and heavy items from scratching the enamel and the mat can be removed for cleaning.

"Next, mask off a strip about one inch from the bottom—around all four sides. Have the bottom and the sides below the tape sprayed with undercoating at your car dealer's. This can be done at nominal cost and will add years of service to your tackle box."

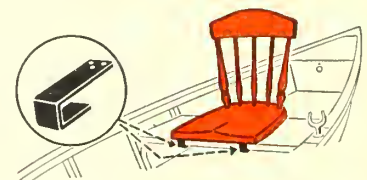
Kendall Green, who carries his tackle box to the lakes of Wisconsin, has a simple but useful addition to the above. "It's quite a job to fumble around in your tackle box looking for a certain lure or plug in the dark of early dawn or the dim light after sunset. I painted the inside of my box with a white paint and it makes a world of difference. It gives a nice bright background for tackle and makes those lures recognizable even in poor light."

DuPont has announced that all their nylon monofilament fishing lines will be sold under the trade-name, "Tynex." The naming of the line was done, DuPont says, to aid fishermen in distinguishing between the DuPont product and competitive materials to which the generic word nylon may be applied.

Write DuPont at Wilmington, Del., for your free copy of their 48-page illustrated booklet, *Spinning with Tynex*.

Pennsylvania is trying on something new this year, just for size. They have lifted all creel restrictions on white bass, rock bass, sunfish, blue gills, catfish, suckers, fallfish, carp and eels. They believe that the pan-fishermen will cooperate in this experiment, which is in line with sound fisheries management. Results will determine whether or not liberalized fishing for these species will be permanent.

Below, Dick Fox of Arlington Heights, Ill., sketches a quick and helpful hint for boat owners: Dick suggests using an old chair. Remove the legs from it, make two angle irons, as shown, and screw them in so that the entire chair hooks right over the regular boat seat. Simple and comfortable.



Probably one of the most useful items you can carry along with you on your fishing trip this year is a topographical map. These maps describe every stream, hill, dale, nook and cranny, in any given section. We needn't point out how helpful this can be. They're available for about 30 cents per sheet from the U. S. Geological Survey Offices, Washington 25, D. C. When you write, mention the precise areas you want covered.

If you have an unusual idea that pertains to hunting or fishing; one that is helpful to fellow readers of this column, send it along. If we can use it, we'll reward you with a hunting or fishing accessory. Address: OUTDOOR EDITOR, Rod and Gun Club, *The American Legion Magazine*, 580 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, New York.

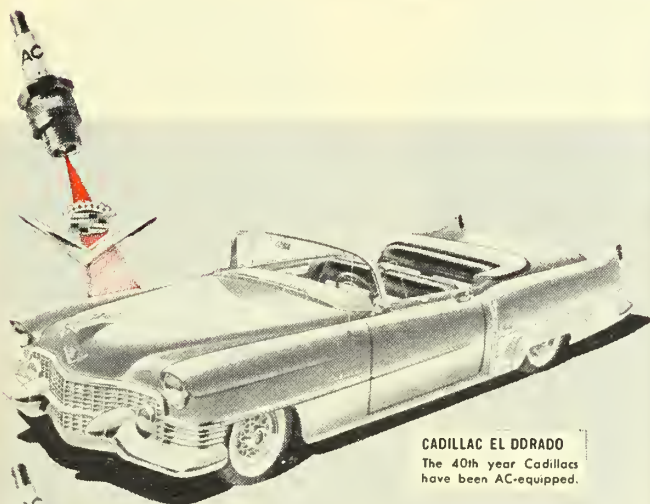
Sparking the Stars

OF THE MOTORAMA!

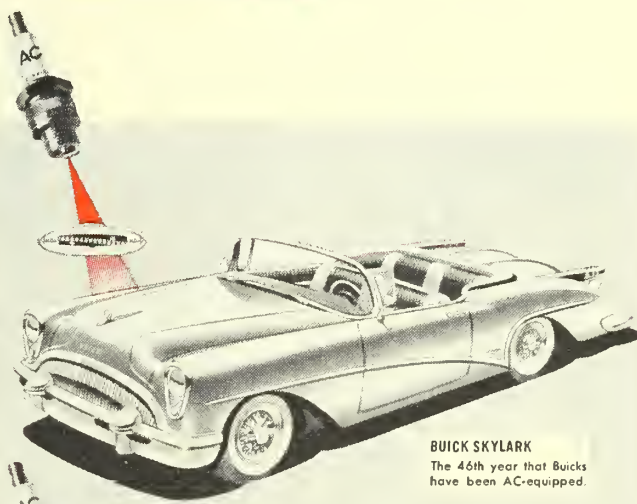
AC Spark Plugs are ideal companions for these brilliant new 1954 cars, for AC is a "star" in its own right — and the starring role is played by the gas-conserving, power-preserving patented CORALOX Insulator. The superior strength of CORALOX makes possible the use of longer, thinner insulator

tips which heat up much more quickly to burn away oil and wet carbon deposits. Then, too, the chemical composition of CORALOX is such that it does not attract the oxide coatings resulting from the burning of leaded fuels. When you replace spark plugs be sure you replace with ACs.

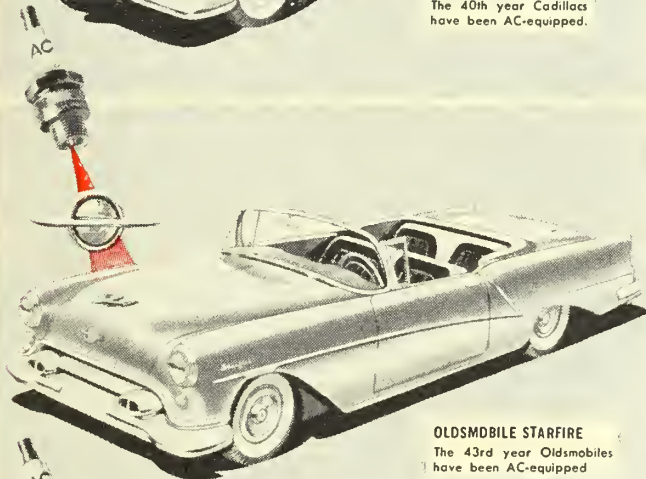
**Original Equipment on Nearly as Many
New Cars as All Other Makes Combined**



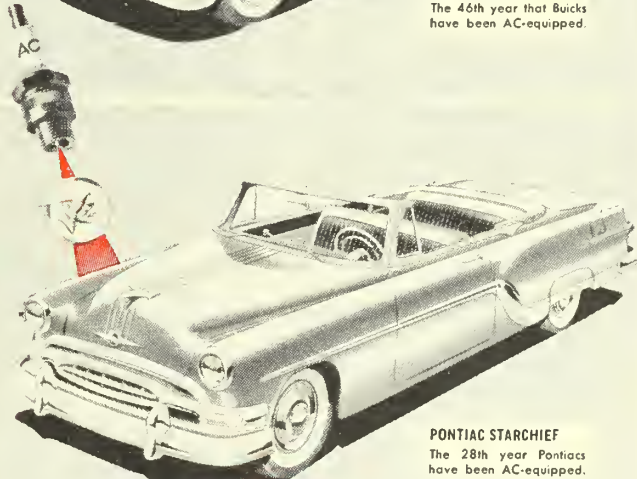
CADILLAC EL DORADO
The 40th year Cadillacs
have been AC-equipped.



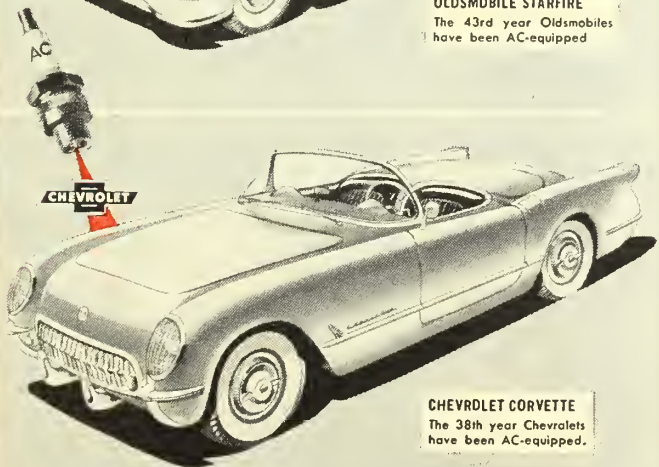
BUICK SKYLARK
The 46th year that Buicks
have been AC-equipped.



OLDSMOBILE STARFIRE
The 43rd year Oldsmobiles
have been AC-equipped.



PONTIAC STARCHIEF
The 28th year Pontiacs
have been AC-equipped.



CHEVROLET CORVETTE
The 38th year Chevrolets
have been AC-equipped.



AC SPARK PLUG DIVISION



GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

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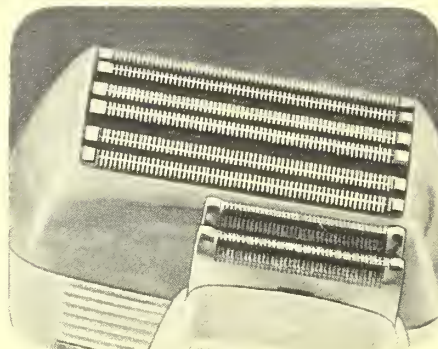


1 THE WHISKERS can be as tough as the 14-day growth above. Yet the three extra-long twin heads of the amazing Remington 60 DeLuxe Electric Shaver will whisk them off smoothly and effortlessly.

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3 THE PERFECT SHAVE - where the eyes see no whiskers - where the finger tips feel no whiskers. A close shave without nicks and cuts or the mess and fuss of old fashioned methods.



140% more live cutting surface than the old fashioned twin heads! It's the Remington 60 DeLuxe - at your dealer's or any of our 116 Nationwide Shaver Headquarters.

See "What's My Line", on the CBS Television Network, Sunday evenings.



Electric Shaver Division **Remington Rand** Bridgeport, Conn.



A DIGEST OF EVENTS WHICH ARE OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU

KOREAN MISSING DECLARED DEAD:

As of December 31, 1953, more than 3,500 servicemen missing in action in Korea for more than one year were declared to be presumed dead by the Defense Department. . . . Nearly 3,000 others now carried as "missing" will be declared dead within the next few months, or after being carried a full year as "missing." . . . Survivors and dependents of these servicemen are entitled to full death benefits when this action is taken and reported to VA. . . . VA has already sent out all notices and forms needed to apply for the benefits to the dependents and next of kin of the men on the "presumed dead" roll of December 31. . . . Others will be cared for when the necessary action is taken by the arms of the Defense Department.

Benefits accruing include death compensation, and Servicemen's Indemnity or insurance as the major items. . . . For payment of compensation or pension, the date set by the service as "presumed dead" will be accepted by VA as the date of death, because pay and allowances were continued by the Armed Forces through that date. . . . Compensation payments will be made to widows for themselves and children at rates established by law upon receipt of claim and proof of relationship. . . . Dependent parents must file a claim submitting proof of dependency in addition to proof of relationship.

* * * *

MISSING PERSONS ACT EXTENDED:

Both Houses of Congress passed a bill (H. R. 7209) on January 27, extending the "Missing Persons Act" until July 1, 1955. . . . The bill has been signed into law by President Eisenhower, protecting the pay and service status of 3,025 servicemen still carried as missing in action in Korea. . . . The original "Missing Persons Act" expired on February 1. . . . The amendment extending the life of the Act authorizes continuance for insurance purposes, pay, allotments to families, and the authority to make a declaration of death in the case of those missing in action for a period of one year. . . . The Legion supported the new legislation, introduced by the Chairmen of the Armed Services Committees.

* * * *

POW PAY PROPOSED IN BILL FOR K-VETS:

Senator Homer Ferguson, of Michigan, has introduced a bill (S. 2605) to grant additional compensation to U. S. servicemen held as prisoners-of-war by the communists in Korea. . . . The bill is patterned on the WW2 POW measure

— provides for \$1 a day for each day a POW failed to receive adequate meals as prescribed by the Geneva Convention, also an additional \$1.50 a day for each day of inhumane treatment while a prisoner. . . . Claims to be handled by the War Claims Commission, which was set up to handle the payments to WW2 POWs. . . . Experts say the maximum cost of the benefit for 4,684 servicemen reported as prisoners would be \$7,500,000.

* * * *

ARMY CIVILIAN JOBS OVERSEAS:

Recruitment of civilian employees for overseas duty with the Army will be carried on from Washington headquarters. . . . Vets who desire employment in this branch should send all inquiries and applications to Chief, Recruitment Branch, Overseas Affairs Division, Office of Civilian Personnel, Office, Secretary of the Army, Washington 25, D. C.

* * * *

VA PLAN TO REHABILITATE MENTAL PATIENTS:

VA's plan to put long-term mental patients back on a self-sustaining basis through a program of paid hospital work has been declared successful in the pilot study. . . . The plan is being expanded for general use. . . . Long-term patients, although medically rehabilitated, are often fearful of leaving the hospital because they have lost contacts and job skills and experience during their stay under treatment. . . . These patients are transferred to a member-employee status so they may take necessary, unfilled hospital jobs at set wages and regular hours while they continue to live in the institution, with medical care, board, room and recreation furnished them. . . . Some patients, who had been hospitalized for 10 years or more, who were included in the trial plan now have regular jobs away from the hospital and are making good adjustment as self-supporting citizens.

* * * *

PART III PENSION RATES OF PAYMENT:

Provision for payment of Part III pensions for non-service disabilities of a total and permanent nature does not include additional sums for dependents. . . . The rate is fixed by law and is not increased or diminished in any way by the number of dependents a veteran may have. . . . The rate is a flat \$63 a month, which is automatically increased to \$75 when the veteran reaches the age of 65 or when he has been on the rolls for ten consecutive years. . . . Disabled veterans of the two WWs and Korea at any age are eligible for the benefit.

VETERAN BILLS PROPOSED BY LEGION:

On opening of the 2nd session of the 83rd Congress a number of legislative proposals covered by Legion mandate were introduced by Senators and Congressmen at the request of the Legion's National Legislative Commission. . . . Important among these measures are: S. 2610 and H. R. 6896, companion bills, to extend the time for filing WW2 POW claims to August 1, 1954. Former deadline, April 9, 1953. . . . H. R. 6931, to extend to 3 years presumptive period for service-connection for multiple sclerosis, and chronic functional psychoses. . . . H. R. 6934, to provide increase in wartime service-connected death compensation to widows from \$75 to \$85 monthly; one dependent parent from \$60 to \$75, or two dependent parents living together, from \$35 to \$40 each. . . . H. R. 6935, to provide Government transportation of body of a vet who dies in a State veterans' home. Present law authorizes such transportation from a VA facility. . . . H. R. 6932, to redefine "Widow of a WW1 Veteran." . . . Present regulations for death pension require that widow must have married deceased veteran prior to December 14, 1944, or that she must have been married to him at least 10 years at the time of his death. Legion proposal asks that marriage date be extended to January 1, 1953. . . . Bills introduced at the first session, which were not acted on, are still pending. These cover all subjects — Americanism, child welfare and social security, economics, foreign relations, national security, and rehabilitation — included in the mandates given the National Legislative Commission by the National Convention or National Executive Committee.

* * * *

ON THE K-VET STATE BONUS FRONT:

Action has been taken in at least three States — New York, Connecticut, and Michigan — looking toward a State bonus for servicemen and women from those States who served during the Korean emergency. . . . In New York, a bill has been introduced in the Legislature to provide for the same payment as that given WW2 vets, ranging from \$50 to \$250, depending upon the length of service and whether or not the vet had overseas time. . . . Measure, as required by law, is proposed in the form of a Constitutional amendment, and enactment is a slow process. . . . Must be approved by two Legislatures and submitted to a vote of the people for ratification at a general election. . . . New York Department of the Legion has given its official approval to the bill.

Connecticut bonus is not as far advanced. . . . Governor John Davis Lodge made recommendation, with argument for its support, for a K-vet bonus to the Legislative Council. . . . Members of the Legislature have urged such action at a special session. . . . Connecticut vets of WW2 were paid a bonus ranging from \$30 to \$300, based on time in service.

Michigan has a proposal pending, identical with the WW2 bonus of \$10 per month for home service and \$15 for overseas, up to a maximum of \$500. . . . If passed by the Legislature, the measure must be ratified by the voters as an amendment to the Constitution. . . . Proponents hope to get it on the ballot at the 1954 general election. . . . Estimated to cost \$80,000,000 it is planned to finance the payment by boosting the tax on cigarettes from 3 to 4 cents. . . . It is also estimated that 250,000 Michigan servicemen and women would collect an average of \$300 each. . . . That State is currently paying survivors of deceased Korea servicemen (who died in service) a \$500 lump-sum benefit.

Only two States — Massachusetts and Vermont — have approved and are presently paying bonuses to Korea vets.

* * * *

MEDALS FOR RESERVISTS:

Reservists whose active duty since June, 1950, has been entirely for training purposes are not eligible to receive and wear the Defense Service Medal. . . . The requirement is that the Reservist must have been called for straight, active duty to be eligible. . . . Design of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal — ribbon for which is available — has not been approved.

* * * *

ARMY RE-ENLISTEES KEEP GI BENEFITS:

Veterans who re-enlist in the Armed Forces before the present emergency is ended by Presidential or Congressional action will not lose out on their Korea GI Bill educational training. . . . Deadline date is August 20, 1954, or two years after discharge — whichever is later. . . . The date of discharge or release from active service means the release from the last period of service, any part of which occurs during the present emergency. . . . Example: If the President or Congress ends the Korea emergency on June 30, 1954, vets still in active service have two years after discharge or release within which to begin training. . . . All training must be completed by June 30, 1961.

* * * *

HOOSIER GIs FAIL TO GET CHECKS:

Some 1,500 Indiana veterans of WW2 failed to get checks for the State bonus because they could not be found at the address given on the application. . . . Checks were returned, and are now gathering dust in the statehouse. . . . If you failed to get the benefit, write Bonus Division, Department of Veterans Affairs, 431 North Meridian, Indianapolis 4, Indiana, giving your correct address.

* * * *

NAVY BACK TO SPIT AN' POLISH:

Orders from the Navy Department seek a return to the ceremonies and dress of pre-WW2 days. . . . A new regulation specifies that swords will be a must for Regular officers "to restore certain prestige to the officer rank." . . . Need for a "more dressy uniform" for official or social occasions was expressed. . . . These occasions include Captain's inspection, change of command, parades and ceremonies, and official calls on warships of other nations. . . . Another must: officers will be required to wear their official medals with the full dress uniform, instead of the cloth service ribbons. . . . Admirals and Captains must "resume" their swords by June of this year.

* * * *

MISCONDUCT AS A BAR TO VET BENEFITS:

"What is the meaning of 'misconduct' as a bar to pension rights?" is a question often asked. . . . In general, misconduct disabilities, including chronic alcoholism, are social diseases not considered to have been incurred in line of duty, although the law makes exception in some cases if the serviceman complied with Army and Navy regulations in receiving treatment. . . . Other instances of "wilful misconduct" are injuries or diseases contracted while in desertion, AWOL, or while confined under sentence of court martial or civil court. . . . In borderline cases, misconduct and suicide in service are causes for which VA may make its own determination.

NEWS *of the* LEGION

and Veterans' Affairs

MARCH 1954

Legion Convention in Nation's Capital (Aug. 30) May Top All

Straws in the wind, as early as February 1, hinted that the Legion's Nat'l Convention in Washington, D.C. this Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 may be the biggest in the Legion's history. It will certainly be the biggest convention the nation's capital has ever seen.

The early reasoning that this may turn out to be THE Legion convention is based mainly on (1) The nation's capital is a natural magnet for visitors with any possible excuse to go there, (2) Because of Washington's tourist attraction, it will be a family convention, with a wife and a couple of kids or cousins or pals for each Legionnaire, and (3) No past convention has been held in Washington, and thousands of Legionnaires will be out to show themselves in the town where the laws are written.

A naturally large influx of Legionnaires and their families, plus indications that a huge military contingent will march in the parade in the Pentagon's home town, is leading to early predictions that the '54 parade will also be the biggest yet.

It will have to go some to top the '37 parade in New York. But the fact that it might do just that has a snowballing effect, attracting many more who don't want to be missing if the big show makes a place for itself in the record book.

"I don't dare miss it," writes a California Legionnaire. "Forever after they may say that if you weren't in Washington in '54 you haven't been around."

Normal estimates say that a Legion convention attracts 150,000 total out-of-town visitors to the convention city. But

'54's total is anybody's guess right now.

The bulk of the visitors come on parade day and don't spend the night. Yet tens of thousands will stop over in Washington, including roughly 9,000 Legionnaires and Auxiliaries who will be there in an official capacity, many with their families. A Legion convention has more delegates than a national political party convention.

The Washington Hotel Association has already promised 7,500 hotel rooms, with 14,000 to 15,000 beds. Member hotels have separately assured Legion officials of 2,500 more rooms, or about 5,000 more beds, all within Washington. Other overnight facilities will be had in hotels in neighboring cities, extending as far away as Baltimore (40 miles). Motels in D.C., Virginia and Maryland will accommodate more convention visitors.

Visiting Legionnaires who seek quarters through the Legion will do so through their Departments. Departments may choose their space, from the hotel rooms that are officially reserved, on a priority system based on percentage of membership quota of record on March 31.

Departments will not be able to make specific room assignments until after mid-April, but should be notified that a member desires Convention hotel accommodations as soon as possible.

Convention business meetings will be in the huge National Guard Armory, at 2001 E. Capitol Street. It has 75,000 sq. ft. in its main hall, and parking space for 1,500 autos on its grounds.

Washington has an extensive surface street car transportation system and

10,000 taxicabs with reasonable rates.

Visitors will not be bored for want of things to do & see. Convention time is too short for one to cover the Capital's national shrines, government bureaus & offices and fine museums.

Washington eateries are of high caliber, with many good, low-priced cafeterias and snack bars, plus excellent higher-priced restaurants.

LEGISLATION:

I So Move

In Tescott, Kansas, something on the legislative front was missing. V. L. Tatlock asked for the floor and got it. Tatlock is chaplain and historian of Post 255 in Tescott.

"Comrade Commander," said Tatlock, "I note that our Post does not get the Legion's National Legislative Bulletin. Now maybe this is something that every single Legionnaire doesn't need to get, but I should think each Post ought to get it so that we know what's happening to our mandates in Washington. Maybe what we need is somebody to make a motion that we spend \$3 for a year's subscription. I so move."

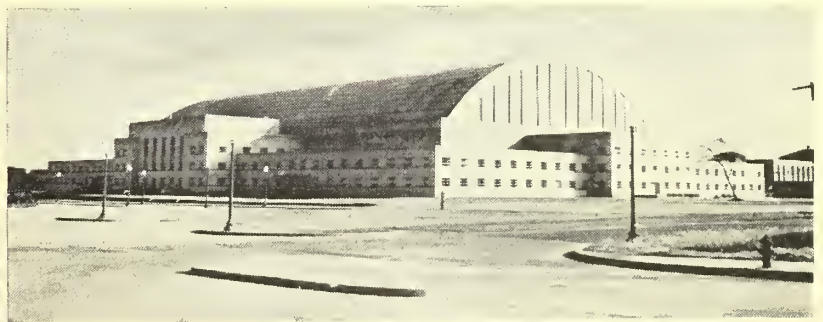
The motion having been made, it was seconded and passed unanimously. On Jan. 8, Post 255 of Tescott, Kansas, became the 3,025th subscriber for 1954 to the Legion's 4-page, twice-a-month newsletter on Washington doings related to Legion programs.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the figures were perplexing.

First, with more than 17,000 Legion Posts, subscriptions to the Legislative Bulletin numbered 3,025 by Jan. 8—or vastly less than one to a Post.

Second, only about 1,000 of those subscriptions went to Posts, while twice that many went to Auxiliary Units.

"Whether this means that the women



Washington, 1954 Convention site. At left, air view. At right, Armory with 1500 parking spaces.

are more interested in following the Legion's programs than the men are, I wouldn't know," commented Legislative Director Miles D. Kennedy. "Maybe the men are interested but feel too busy. Or maybe 16,000 Posts just haven't had anyone make a motion yet."

In New York, the editors of these pages decided to run one more subscription coupon (see below) in case there are more V. L. Tatlocks to make the motion. March to July would be the most decisive legislative months.

Capitol Warm-up

The midwinter calm on the Washington scene had its items of interest. It was the period between the President's messages to Congress and the actual doings of the legislative year.

President's State of the Union message favorably mentioned Office of Defense Mobilization report bemoaning lack of a good military reserve system, but made no mention of the Nat'l Security Training Commission's UMT report on how to create a sound reserve. Conclusion: Federal gov't is fully aware of dangerous military reserve situation but will continue to be afraid to solve the problem by the only known method.

One veiled remark in Ike's Budget message seemed a trial balloon for a possible future policy that vets' pensions and other benefits will not be needed, in view of Social Security, etc. An earlier Budget Bureau report has developed this philosophy. The President's vague remark could have serious future meaning for hundreds of thousands of veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans.

New proposed budget for VA looks a little tight, but not bad, provided the usual moves in Congress to cut it more do not materialize.

Budget message called for 45 per cent slash in funds for Veterans Employment

Service. This, says Legion Economic Director Ralph Lavers, "would annihilate the service." VES has done yeoman's work placing vets in jobs, especially the disabled. With nat'l unemployment rising toward the 2½ million mark, the proposed cut is in the raised eyebrows dept.

Also, reports Lavers, "There has been before Congress a recommendation that the Bureau of Reemployment Rights in the Dept of Labor be discontinued. This is the bureau to which returning vets appeal when they find difficulty in getting their old jobs back." If taken seriously by Congress, this suggestion to strip vets of their means of getting their legal due from employers would also cause eyebrow-lifting.

As Congress settled down to actual tussle with nat'l problems, more than 325 Representatives and Senators took time out to attend Legion Legislative Commission's annual dinner to the Congress, Jan. 27, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. It was a friendly feed, with good food, intimate talk. In only speech on the agenda, Nat'l Cmdr Arthur J. Connell outlined broad Legion interests, and thanked the Congress for its historic consideration of the Legion's programs.

MEDICINE:

... & Politics

One of the latest American Medical Association pamphlets to instruct its members on the dangers of the veterans' medical program deals with "presumption" of service-connection. This simply means that there are general conditions under which some veterans' disabilities are to be presumed (by law) to be service-connected.

Without showing its readers the reasoning behind "presumptive" service-connection, AMA "Special Report #14" implies that it gives hospital entitlement

to veterans for disabilities which are established as service-connected by some dark method that is not "legitimate."

Once again, somebody at AMA Hq was too eager to cast suspicion on the veterans' medical program. Congress provides "presumption" of service-connection on the soundest medical reasoning.

Example: More "presumption" is awarded in the case of tuberculosis than for any other disability. Thus, in June 1950, Congress said that a veteran who showed active pulmonary TB within three years of military service would be presumed to have been infected while in service.

This action came shortly after a strong editorial appeared in the Journal of The American Medical Association which attributed the high incidence of TB among WW2 vets to infection while in service.

Said the AMA Journal at that time: "During the war several million persons . . . were sent abroad. . . . Many of them were in areas where . . . contagious tuberculosis existed . . . hence infections and reinfections occurred. . . . In one [American] university where the incidence of tuberculin reactors was 6.4% on entrance in 1945, it was 19.3% in 1947, when there was a large influx of ex-service students. . . . There is and will continue to be an increase in . . . tuberculosis as a direct result of the war. . . . If . . . the infected are allowed to become contagious in their communities, the real increase in tuberculosis in this country will gain momentum."

Even in 1950, said the AMA Journal when speaking medically, war-connected tuberculosis lesions would continue to appear for the first time "in a considerable number" of those who had not yet developed TB lesions.

Of course, none of these veterans could prove specifically that the TB bug entered their bodies on a certain date at a certain place in service.

However, AMA scientists "presumed" that that was the case even before Congress extended the period of presumption to a conservative 3 years after service.

Last month there was no explanation from AMA Hq of the meaning of the inconsistencies between its medical and its political findings.

LEGION TRAINING:

Forty-six Legion Departments sent 83 pupils to the one-week American Legion College, held at Nat'l Hq in Indianapolis, Jan. 17-23. The college has been held intermittently since 1946 to give members from every Department a detailed familiarity with Legion policies & pro-

National Legislative Commission
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Date.....

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Here is check (money order) for three dollars (\$3.00) for which enter subscription to the National Legislative Bulletin of The American Legion for the entire 2nd Session of the 83rd Congress.

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Subscriber is member of: ☐ Legion; ☐ Auxiliary

grams. Students got briefing from many nat'l officers and speakers from nat'l divisions. The Legion colleges have always been a fruitful source of informed Legion leadership.

Value of planned briefing of leadership was also expressed in recent action of Kings County (N.Y.) Legion. It started a School of Instruction for Post Officials late last year. Monthly sessions have played to packed houses.

MEMBERSHIP:

On Jan. 28, nat'l Legion membership continued to run ahead of same date last year. It was the fourth year in a row whose pace exceeded the previous year. Total nat'l figure on Jan. 28 stood at 2,034,312 paid up for 1954, or 17,449 ahead of same date in 1953. Thirty-seven Departments were ahead of their '53 pace.

North Dakota and Louisiana led the states in quota percentage on that date, with 97.4% and 95.37% of the year's quota figure already in. Worldwide membership stood at 66.22% of quota.

Mexico was the top foreign Department, and also topped all Departments, with 98.84% of quota already reported by Jan. 28.

RELIGION:

Faith Above All

It began in 1950. Then, in April, George N. Craig said that "our first armament must be spiritual." Craig called upon all Americans to seek Divine guidance in "the decisions which they now face." He asked all American Legion Posts to spark "Go to Church" movements in their towns during the week of April 16, 1950.

Craig (now Gov. of Indiana) was then The American Legion's first WW2 Nat'l Commander.

This year, on Sunday, Feb. 7, the Legion's Back-to-God movement became, for the 2nd year in a row, a worldwide appeal for a revival of religious faith and training, keyed by a TV and radio message from the President of the United States in the White House.

For a half-hour, from 2:30 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 7, President Eisenhower and prominent leaders of America's 3 major faiths took up the Legion's movement. They broadcast an interfaith message urging the people of the world to seek more divine guidance in their everyday activities by regular church attendance, daily family prayer and more religious instruction of youth.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and Rabbi Norman Salit joined with the President, Nat'l Cmdr Arthur J. Connell and Nat'l Chaplain Dr. Tom B. Clark in the program.

In America, the program was broadcast by CBS, ABC, NBC and Mutual radio and by CBS television, while Armed Forces Radio and the Voice of America beamed it overseas.

AMERICANISM:

The First \$100,000

Legion Nat'l High School Oratorical Contests were in full swing at press-time with expectation that contestants from the nation's high schools would outnumber last year's 325,000. The 4-man nat'l finals were set for April 7 at Susan Miller Dorsey High School, Los Angeles.

Since its beginnings in 1938, the Nat'l Oratorical Contests had meant many things. Because of requirement that contestants must give a public address on a subject bearing on the U. S. Constitution, the Legion had stimulated many high-school students to read and know the Constitution well enough to speak about it from a public platform. How well had this basic Americanism purpose of the contest served?

In 1938, when the top national prize was a watch to each of the 4 finalists, there were 4,000 contestants.

There were 24,000 the second year, when there was one nat'l prize, a \$4,000 college scholarship. E. Fletcher Padgett, Jr., won it, went to the University of South Carolina and became a lawyer. The early prizes were given by Eddie Cantor. Subsequently, the nat'l Legion provided them.

By 1943, there were 100,000 boys and girls competing, as more and more Legion Posts took up the sponsorship of the contests in their local high schools. That year the Legion gave four nat'l scholarships of \$4,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250. Winners were B. C. Bernard (Ill.), B. D. Smith (Cal.), H. Cole (Mich.) and C. D. Elyea, Jr. (Ga.). They went to Washington U., U. of Redlands, U. of Michigan and Davidson U., respectively, and became a lawyer, a school teacher, a minister and a minister.

Last year, the total contestants since 1938 added up to 2,735,000 high-school boys and girls. They had all read the Constitution well enough to speak about it from a platform. The \$4,000 first-prize scholarship still stood, while the next three prizes had been raised, since 1947, to \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500.

As the second semester of this college year opened, 18 top prize-winners since 1949 were still in college.

Scholarship prizes paid for the new semester brought the total expended by the nat'l Legion in scholarship prizes since 1939 over the \$100,000 mark.

Hundreds of thousands of lesser prizes had been awarded by Legion Posts, Districts and Departments.

RADIO & TV:

Awards to 3 Networks

Three nat'l radio and TV networks—ABC, NBC and Mutual—got Legion awards for outstanding performance on the airwaves recently. The awards were voted by the 1953 Nat'l Convention.

Nat'l Cmdr Arthur J. Connell presented NBC's award to NBC President Sylvester Weaver on the "Star Playhouse" program, Dec. 27. On Jan. 10 Connell appeared on ABC's "This Week Around the World," to present the Legion's acknowledgment of public service. Mutual received its award from the Nat'l Commander on its "On the Line With Bob Considine" program, Jan. 24.

CHILD WELFARE:

The Mandates

Principal Legion mandates relating to Congressional action in the field of Child Welfare are listed here. Americanism mandates were outlined in the January issue. Others will be listed in future issues. The Child Welfare mandates:

- 1) Increase Military and Naval Academy allotments for sons of personnel killed in service, and include sons of men killed in Korea.
- 2) Establish children's mental hygiene clinic in District of Columbia.
- 3) Urge maternal and infant care program similar to World War II.
- 4) Prevent smuggling of narcotics into the United States and stiffen penalties.
- 5) Amend Federal Narcotic Laws to provide more severe punishment and penalties for offenders.
- 6) Enforce present laws re: publication and distribution of lewd, pornographic, obscene, indecent and bawdy literature and expand laws, if necessary.
- 7) Amend Social Security laws to make "Definition of a Child" same as used in VA for benefits accruing from in-service death of parent.
- 8) Increase monthly military Social Security wage credit to \$250 for veterans.
- 9) Amend Social Security laws to preserve wage credits of those who are unable to remain in covered employment by reason of disability.
- 10) Grant Social Security benefits to the people of Puerto Rico on the same ratio and basis as for the several States.
- 11) Eliminate wage ceilings for widows of veterans supporting minor children and who are otherwise entitled to Old Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits.
- 12) Eliminate Social Security law provisions limiting retroactive payments to World War II and K-Veterans' widows and children.



OFFICIAL AMERICAN LEGION SHIRT

L755 (white) and L756 (blue) Official American Legion Shirts. Well tailored, perfectly styled in solid white or Legion blue. Best quality, pre-shrunk broadcloth, guaranteed absolutely color-fast. Sizes 13½ to 18 and all standard sleeve lengths. Specify correct size. Immediate delivery.

L755 White Shirt.....\$4.00
L756 Blue Shirt.....\$4.25

Legion Gold or Blue Tie, all wool, full length with 1¼" embroidered emblem applied as illustrated. Specify color....\$1.00 each



LEGION ZELAN JACKET

L810—Light weight, water repellent Zelan Jacket. Excellent for year-round wear. Sizes (36) small, (38-40) medium, (42-44) large and (46-48) extra large. Available in Oyster (cream) or Navy blue color. Be sure to specify color and size. Immediate shipment. \$5.75

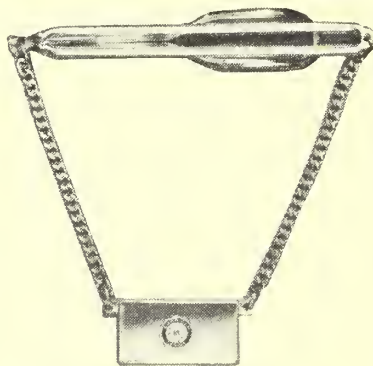


NEW PARKER "Jotter" Ball Point Pen

Choice of black,
rust, green
or gray.



Writes 6 times longer
... smoother. Rotating
Ball Seat prevents wear,
leaking. Non-breakable
Nylon Plastic Barrel....\$2.75



LN937—Gold-plated Tie Chain. Midget
Legion emblem. Bright polished. Gift box.
Price, tax included.....\$1.80



L654—Prestige-winning Legion front auto
plate. Heavy gauge steel with baked-on en-
amel, assuring long life. Blue background,
gold lettering and emblem. Price each \$1.00

◀ A453—Starlight or Rapture Pattern 52
piece service. Original Rogers Silver-
plate. Wood chest with tarnish-resistant
lining. Specify pattern and emblem desired
on chest.....\$24.50



POST CAPS • Style 1 Lettering

Post numerals on right-hand side and State
name in full on left side below emblem.

L1275/D1.....Deluxe quality.....\$3.35
L1275/S1.....Standard quality..... 3.00



POST CAPS • Style 2 Lettering

Post numerals on right-hand side and name of
City in full with State name abbreviated on left
beneath emblem.

L1275/D2.....Deluxe quality.....\$4.25
L1275/S2.....Standard quality..... 3.95
Additional lettering on right side of cap at 13¢
per letter. No C.O.D. cap shipments. Specify
correct size.

PLASTIC CAP COVER

L1275/CC—not illustrated. Heavy weight, top
quality, full-length zipper.

Each 50¢.....Per dozen \$5.00

Two weeks required for delivery of caps.



BRAND NEW EMBLEM CATALOG **FREE!** WRITE FOR YOUR COPY TODAY

Combined Legion and Auxiliary merchandise.

NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Indiana

3M54

RUSH the following:

☐ Ship C.O.D. for \$..... ☐ Remittance for \$..... enclosed.
☐ Rush a new 1954 Emblem catalog.

Name.....

Street.....

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Current Membership Card Serial No.

AID LEGION PROGRAMS • BUY FROM NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES

REHABILITATION:

How Does P10 Work?

Does the new Form 10P10 scare legitimate patients away from VA hospitals? To find out, the Nat'l Rehabilitation Commission is running a field survey, in conjunction with the Nat'l Field Service and key Dept service officers.

VA's Form 10P10 now requires that a veteran who applies for non-service-connected medical care from the VA give a detailed account of his personal finances. Nat'l Cmdr Arthur J. Connell assured the VA, in November, that the Legion would support a trial of the new form. It is strongly designed to remind applicants that non-service care depends in part on inability to pay for private care. It was not intended to discourage legitimate applicants for care, and the Legion survey seeks to discover if it has that effect.

The Vail Report

Nat'l Rehab Circular #2 for 1954 contains the text of the letter of Dr. Derrick Vail to the American Medical Ass'n.

Letter advises AMA that its House of Delegates' action opposing present gov't veterans medical program is unsound medically and socially.

Letter carries weight of 20-man medical advisory group set up by Congress in 1946. It is a lengthy and objective report on (1) fallacies and weaknesses of AMA position and (2) basic soundness of present veterans medical program.

Dr. Vail, head of ophthalmology dep't at Northwestern U., is not employed by the VA. "You will note," wrote Dr. Vail, that the report "is concurred in by the Council of Chief Consultants, who constitute 29 eminent physicians and one outstanding member of the dental profession."

As a result of the comprehensive study of the special medical committee, wrote Dr. Vail, "We find it necessary to endorse the present policy, established many years ago by the VA on Congressional order."

BRIEFLY NOTED:

» Posts, Auxiliary Units, and 40&8 in Dept of Kansas went all out on fund drive for Cerebral Palsy Hospital Building. Total to date, \$6,100.

» California Women Legionnaires have set up a Memorial Medical Scholarship Fund to encourage children of veterans to enter medical profession. Scholarships up to \$2,000 will be awarded at state conventions for study in medical and allied fields.

» Flood of anti-Semitic hate sheets, *Common Sense* and *Protocols of Zion*, to Legion Posts brought warning on Jan. 14 from Nat'l Adj't Henry H. Dudley that they should be destroyed as material

which is contrary to long-standing principles of the Legion. Post Commanders were asked to expose hate-mongering sheets at meetings.

» In Denver, Colo., recently two men were selling tickets for something called "Armed Forces Review" which was allegedly to be held May 14 in Post 1 Memorial Building. Name of Post and that of the Legion were improperly linked with the sale of the tickets, giving the impression that the Post was sponsoring the event. Prompt action on the part of Post members led to the two men being tracked down by District Attorney's office.

» Dept of Oklahoma has designated March as Mutual Helpfulness Month with Legion Posts set to raise \$12,000 for work in Home School for veterans' orphans and Rehabilitation. First campaign last year raised over \$5,000.

» Auxiliary of Dept of Wisconsin again wrapped and mailed to vets' families gifts which have been selected by vets in VA hospitals throughout the state. Cost of project for 1953 Xmas season, \$25,000.

» The Gifts for Yanks fund drive in Oklahoma resulted in the collection of \$3,962.25 which, at press time, had provided:

(1) At the Will Rogers Hospital, Oklahoma City, two 24-inch TV sets and a free telephone call home for each

patient; (2) At Norman, special Christmas dinner and individual gifts for each patient in the Veterans ward; (3) At Ardmore Home, a pair of house slippers for each patient, and permanent gifts for the Home to be purchased later; (4) At Sulphur and Muskogee hospitals, free telephone calls home for all patients, permanent gifts to be used by all to be bought later; (5) At Vinita and Taft, special gifts for vet patients; (6) At station hospital, Fort Sill, free telephone calls home for patients.

RECENT POST DOINGS:

» As part of its community service program, Post 169, Eldorado, Ill., gave four waste receptacles to the city. The Post also presented a wheel chair to James Michael Mace, five-year-old hydrocephalic sufferer who has never been able to walk.

» Post 166, Alliance, Ohio, expended almost \$6,000 in (1) reducing the deficit on the Post home, (2) giving Christmas parties for GIs in camps, and (3) donating to the Alliance City Hospital's rehabilitation fund. The money came from the Post's salvage wastepaper drive.

» Post 278, Los Angeles, Cal., recently awarded its annual trophy and plaque to the outstanding Reserve Division of the 11th Naval District as selected by a Navy Inspection Team.

IT SMELLS GRAND



IT PACKS RIGHT



IT SMOKES SWEET



IT CAN'T BITE!

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S BLEND OF CHOICE KENTUCKY BURLEYS IS EXTRA-AGED TO GUARD AGAINST TONGUE BITE. AND SIR WALTER RALEIGH NEVER LEAVES A SOGGY HEEL IN YOUR PIPE. STAYS LIT TO THE LAST PUFF.



It costs no more to smoke the Best!

Post 31, Kewanee, Ill., claims the only all-ladies Degree Team in the Dept of Illinois. Post Adjt Blair, who commands the team, has been designated Honorary Past Cmdr, the only lady ever to be so honored by the Post.

When 142 boys of Boys' Ranch, Amarillo, Tex., visited their city, 40&8ers of Post 5, Colorado Springs, Colo., treated the lads to a feed.

Post 32, Oil City, Pa., has, for the 5th consecutive year, received from the Oil City Police Department all overtime parking fines collected from Dec. 1st to 25th. Money—\$512.18 in 1953—goes to Post's Hospital Entertainment Fund.

Post 505, Detroit, Mich., entertained 1,000 needy and underprivileged children recently. After a theatre show, each child was presented with a bag of eandy, bubble gum, and a toy. Two shows were necessary to accommodate the large turnout of little people.

Post 148, Sulphur, Okla., has added a merry-go-round to its Legion Joyland Park, raising value of park's equipment to \$21,000. Proceeds from park are used in Child Welfare program and in giving aid to needy veterans. All work is contributed by Legionnaires.

Post 183, Scott City, Kan., paid the bill for aerial ambulance to bring Bennie Worrel from the VA hospital in Sioux Falls, S. D., to his home in Scott City. Worrel, whose leg was broken in ten places in a farm accident last July, was granted 3 weeks leave from the hospital.

Post 8, New Rochelle, N. Y., feted Navy Chief Petty Officer Vincent Paladino who adopted Korean orphan Lee Kyung Soo. Lee got a toy tractor.

Uniformed Legionnaires from Smith-Wiley Post, Gardiner, Maine, won praise of the local Chief of Police for serving as traffic officers. Their service was in response to numerous complaints about speeding at school crossings.

Legionnaires of Post 211, Belle Plaine, Kan., staged two "Legion Work Days" and installed new sidewalks in front of the Post home.

Post 239, Tigertown, Wis., recently presented a fully equipped ambulance to the Tigertown Hospital. Post also gave \$50 check to the Hospital Charities Assn to help pay the hospital's debts.

As part of their Child Welfare program, the nurses who comprise Post 452, San Francisco, Cal., shipped three cartons of Christmas toys and gifts to sick children and orphans at a Manila, Philippines, hospital.

Post 441, Tontogany, Ohio, which has 64 members in a village of 370, recently completed a \$40,000 Post home. Built by volunteer labor, the new home will be available for community activities.

Post 58, Little Chute, Wis., donated \$1,000 to a building fund to start an

addition to the local high school.

Post 15, Iola, Kan., ran a wrestling show to raise funds for the Post's Junior Baseball program.

Post 326, Verdale, Minn., gave the village school patrol new belts, flags, and ponchos. The Post sponsors the Verdale School Patrol, which is a part of the School Safety and Bus Patrol Program sponsored by the Legion in Minnesota in which more than 25,000 youngsters are active.

Post 255, Warwick, Va., purchased a 15-kilowatt generator for community emergency use.

Post 1, Memphis, Tenn., conducted a fund-raising campaign, proceeds of which went to purchase 13 TV sets for the patients at Kennedy and Lamar Veterans Hospitals.

Post 41, Kaukauna, Wis., donated \$800 to Kaukauna Memorial Hospital.

Post 372, Chicago, Ill., presented \$100 to the family of each of five firemen killed while fighting a hotel fire.

Post 31, Washington, D. C., brought Christmas to a family consisting of a mother and five children (with the sixth expected) who had been deserted by her husband. The family had neither food nor money. The Post collected \$131, two tricycles, a Christmas tree with all the trimmings, food, clothing, dolls, etc. Most of the money was used to provide food for the family for six weeks. The little money that remains will be used to buy a gift for the new baby when it arrives.

Post 13, Albuquerque, N. M., together with civic officials, is conducting a Juvenile Traffic Violators' School to reduce number of traffic accidents caused by juvenile drivers.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

Jobs, Honors, Activities:

Clarence A. Jackson, Past Dept Cmdr of Indiana, named to head the Study Commission on States' Rights, under Dr. Clarence Manion's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Past Nat'l Cmdr Lewis K. Gough, elected Nat'l Vice President of the Navy League.

Nat'l Executive Committeeman Thomas W. Miller of Nevada, appointed to direct the 1954 Crusade for Freedom in Nevada.

Harold C. Hill, appointed Adjt, Dept of Hawaii, succeeding Charles E. Morris, deceased.

Immediate Past Dept Cmdr Doran T. Densler of Utah, elected Alternate Member of NEC, succeeding Birney K. Farnsworth, deceased.

Joe H. Adams, member Nat'l Convention Commission, appointed Florida State Hotel Commissioner.

Gov. Frank G. Clement, Past Dept

Cmdr of Tennessee, named by U. S. Chamber of Commerce as one of the ten outstanding young Americans of 1953.

John E. Curtiss, Nat'l Executive Committeeman from Nebraska, elected President of the Lincoln, Neb., Chamber of Commerce.

Madison B. Graves, Past Dept Cmdr, Nevada, appointed U. S. District Attorney for District of Nevada.

Dr. Thomas S. Ely, Dept Cmdr of Virginia, appointed by Gov. John S. Battle to serve on Governor's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

Floyd H. Crabtree, Dept Cmdr of Nevada 1946-47, appointed Civil Defense Director of State of Nevada.

Ramon R. Guas, Nat'l Executive Committeeman from Puerto Rico, back in San Juan after hospitalization in New York. Guas, injured in airplane crash while homebound from the fall NEC meetings in Indianapolis, plans to attend NEC meeting in spring.

William R. Egan, Nat'l Executive Committeeman from Colorado, convalescing at home in Denver, following an operation.

Dr. P. E. Kercheval, Nat'l Executive Committeeman from West Virginia, convalescing at home in Kingwood, after surgery.

Died:

JANUARY

Dr. Neal D. Williams, of Missouri, Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr, 1930-31, of a heart attack, in Santa Anita, Cal.

Gene Morgan, at Chicago. He was a Paris Caucus delegate.

L. Hugo Keller, Past Dept Cmdr of Wisconsin, 1924-25, in Appleton, Wis.

Francis M. Sullivan, DAV Legislative Director, in Washington, D. C. Sullivan was Legion's acting Legislative Director at the time GI Bill was passed.

Salvatore A. (Cappy) Capodice, Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr, 1936-37, suddenly, in North Hollywood, Cal.

John F. Cotter, member Nat'l Public Relations Commission, after a brain operation, in Boston, Mass.

John G. Towne, Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr, 1926-27, aboard train enroute home to Waterville, Maine, from Florida.

George Shaw Honston, Historian of Society of American Legion Founders, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

COMING EVENTS:

Department of Florida Convention, St. Petersburg, May 20-23; Auxiliary, May 20-23; 40 & 8, May 18-20; 8 & 40, May 19-20.

Department of California Convention, San Francisco, July 25-28.

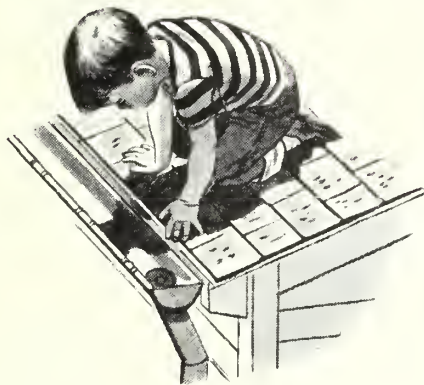
Department of Oklahoma Convention, Oklahoma City, August 6-8.

MISSING IN KOREA

Name, rank, and complete unit should be clearly spelled out—no abbreviations.

Replies to these notices which ask for money should be reported to the editors.

- 7th Div., 31st Inf. Regt.—Cpl. Harold A. Evans missing since Dec. 12, 1950, at Chosin Reservoir. Anyone who knew him please write his brother, Glenn W. Evans, Thief River Falls, Minn.
- 7th Inf. Regt., Co. C—Sgt. B. Todd last heard from July 3, 1950 from Japan; reported to have escaped from red prison camp; listed as unaccounted for in prison list from reds. Anyone having any information about him or his whereabouts please write his mother, Mrs. O. D. Todd, 536 Piedmont St., Orlando, Fla.
- 99th Field Artillery Bn., Battery C—PFC Recil P. Arwood missing near Unsan, Nov. 2, 1950. His mother, Mrs. Easter Arwood, Duffield, Va., would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew him or who knows what happened to him.
- 25th Inf. Div., 14th Inf. Regt., Co. B—Sgt. Herman L. ("Bud") Limberg missing May 29, 1953 near Outpost Elko. Anyone having any information about him please write his parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Limberg, Woden, Iowa.
- 31st Inf. Regt., Co. C—PFC French Eugene Marsh lost his life March 30, 1953. Anyone having any information about him please write his widow, Mrs. Ruth Marsh, Route #3, Weston, W. Va.
- 7th Inf. Regt., Co. F—PFC Alvin C. Burman missing since April 25, 1951. Anyone knowing the circumstances of his disappearance or having information about him please write his sister, Mrs. Arlie Brekke, Oklee, Minn.
- 57th Field Artillery Bn., Battery A—PFC Walter L. Jones missing since Dec. 6, 1950; confirmed dead January 1954. Anyone who served with him or who knows what happened to him please notify his parents, Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Jones, Box 323, Henrietta, Tex.
- 23rd Inf. Regt., Co. M—Cpl. Benjamin Smith killed in action May 18, 1951. Anyone who served with him please contact Veterans Service Officer, Genesee County Bldg., Batavia, N. Y., or Mrs. Marion Smith c/o Mr. Daniel Smith, 41 Jackson St., Batavia, N. Y.
- 17th Inf. Regt., Co. A—PFC James E. Canyock missing since July 9, 1953. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Canyock, R.D. 2, Portage, Pa., would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows anything about him or his whereabouts.
- 2nd Div., 38th Inf. Regt., Co. A—SFC Waitcell Plunkett missing since Nov. 28, 1950, at Un Dong-Dong; no word since then. Anyone who knew him or who knows anything about his whereabouts please write his sister, Mrs. Carmen Hamrick, 221 Spicer St., Akron 4, Ohio.
- 38th Inf. Regt., Co. E—PFC Carlos Bidopia missing since May 17, 1951 in the vicinity of Chik-tong. Anyone knowing the circumstances of his disappearance please write his mother, Mrs. Maria Luisa Bidopia, Goicuria #513, Habana, Cuba.
- 32nd Inf. Regt., Co. I—Pvt. Eugene E. Losure reported missing July 11, 1953 in the vicinity of Pork Chop Hill. Anyone who knew him or who has any information about him please write his wife, Mrs. Barbara Losure, 411 East Wiley St., Marion, Ind.
- 3rd Div., 7th Inf. Regt.—Pvt. Donald Goggins killed near Sniper Ridge April 22, 1953. Anyone who knew him or who has any information about him please write his father, Thomas Goggins, 2809 N. 75th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1st Cav. Div., 7th Cav. Regt. Co. C—Cpl. Raymond Shortino missing since Oct. 12, 1951; no word since then. Anyone who has seen him since then or who has any information about him or his whereabouts please write his sister, Mrs. Anthony Spataro, Box 459, Avella, Pa.
- 7th Div., 32nd Inf. Regt., 1st Bn., Hq Co.—Sgt. Delbert W. Smith missing since Dec. 2, 1950 near Ungi Reservoir; no word since then. Anyone knowing anything about him please notify his mother, Mrs. Clara E. Rodgers, 925 W. Oak St., Ft. Collins, Colo.
- 1st Cav. Div., 5th Cav. Regt., Service Co.—Cpl. Norman J. Furman reported missing since Nov. 4, 1950, in Yongsan-Dong. Anyone who served with him, please contact his parents by writing Charles Prince, Jr., Post No. 109, The American Legion, Liberty, N. Y.
- 57th Field Artillery Bn., Battery A—Cpl. John G. Walter missing since Dec. 6, 1950; recently declared dead. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. George Walter, East Dubuque, Ill., would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew their son or from anyone who has any information about him.
- 9th Inf. Regt., Co. A—PFC Carl S. Schlossman reported missing Nov. 30, 1950 near Kunu-ri. Anyone who knew him or who has any information about him please contact his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Schlossman, 412 Manor St., Columbia, Pa.
- 5th R.C.T., Co. A—Pvt. Bobby Miller missing since April 25, 1951 near Chongpyong. Anyone hav-



A four-year-old child
was up on a roof



A house was
on fire



A plumber was needed
in a hurry



A baby was about
to be born

Just a few of the emergency calls handled recently by one telephone central office.

The Spirit of Service

Calls like these are familiar to telephone people everywhere.

What they say so plainly is that our work lies at the very heart of life. We are in the thick of it. And the way we act matters.

For day in and day out, minute by minute, we are serving the needs of the people. Our entire business—everything about it—exists so that we may render service.

Out of this experience comes a certain attitude of telephone people that is one of our most precious assets. It is The Spirit of Service.

It begins with a sense of responsi-

bility and shows itself in a sort of combination of knowing-how and wanting-to-do.

We know that without it there would still be telephone service of a sort. But it wouldn't be the same. We wouldn't be the same people either. For the spirit that brings the most to the job, likewise returns the most to the people who give it.

Much has been done. But telephone men and women know that all that the years have brought is but the beginning.

Our opportunities for Service open wide before us.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

LOCAL to serve the community. NATIONWIDE to serve the nation.



ing any information about him please write Mrs. Bashford Robinson, Route 3, Canton, N. C. Would like to hear from a Dills family in Nebraska whose son wrote at the time that Bobby Miller was reported missing that he (Miller) had been killed.

2nd Inf. Div., 9th Inf. Regt., 1st Bn., Hq Co.—Robert L. White, missing since Nov. 1950, at Kunu-ri; declared dead Dec. 31, 1953. Anyone who served with him or who has any information about him, please contact his mother by writing James Turner, County Service Officer, Greensburg, Ind.

38th Inf. Regt., Co. E.—Cpl. Leonard S. Watson reported missing Feb. 13, 1951. His wife, Mrs. Ina M. Watson, Antlers, Okla., would like to hear from those who served with him

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Space does not permit notices to contact persons for any purpose except to assist in establishing a claim for a veteran or his dependents. Statement to that effect should accompany notice.

Army

87th Div., 347th Inf., Co. D (WW1)—Need to contact company commander or men who served with me. Need help to establish claim. Write **Frank Bonevitz**, VA Hospital, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo 15, N. Y.

357th Inf., Co. C; Camp Travis, Tex., 1917—Anyone who served with **Albert Weigart** or who remembers his condition in the hospital after his vaccination in Sept., 1917, please write him at Rt. 1, McCloud, Okla.

92nd Inf. Div., 370th Inf. Regt., Co. K, 1st Platoon—Anyone, especially Sgt. Fry, who remembers **Claude W. Orr** being wounded Sept. 13, 1944, in Italy, please contact him at 605 Washington St., Columbia, Tenn.

Hq 209th AAA Bn. (AW)—Urgently need to hear from former members of this outfit, particularly those who were in the invasion of Luzon. Write **Max Wagamon**, Grand Mound, Iowa. Claim pending.

586th AAA, Battery A, Camp Bowie, Tex.—Anyone who recalls the accident which befell **Virgil M. Gauthier** while on maneuvers in Nov., 1944, please contact him at Box 634, Pascoag, R. I.

2nd Div., 38th Inf. Regt., Co. G, 1942-44—"Red" Cornett or anyone who remembers "**The Sheepcrder**," please write **Abram D. Garriott, Jr.**, Matheson, Colo. Need help to establish claim for back injury.

142nd Field Artillery, Battery C (WW1)—In late Oct. or early Nov., 1917, **PFC William F. Lavasque** was supervising construction of drainage ditch at Camp Beauregard, La., when bank caved in throwing him unconscious between two pine stumps. Men who pulled him out wrenched his back and left him in barracks. Doctors were on maneuvers at time, and Lavasque was still unconscious when found few days later by Dr. Pat Wright (now deceased). No hospital record of injury. Now confined to bed most of time. Needs someone who remembers incident, to help establish claim. Write **William F. Lavasque**, 706 East 6th St., Russellville, Ark.

Fort Meade, Maryland, 1945—Luigi Napolitano hospitalized in May or June for ailment diagnosed as malaria. Injured his back in July, when rope he was climbing broke or came loose from its fastening. Not hospitalized for this injury, but given daily heat treatments. In Japan from Sept., 1945 to Aug., 1946 with the **1876 Engr. Avn. Bn.** Anyone who remembers Napolitano, please contact **Edward Rawson**, Windsor, Vt.

686th Engineer Co.—1st Sgt. **Ralph Gianantonio** and **James Rhodes** who served in 1943-45 with **George Beckwith**, who is now hospitalized, please contact **George Vasconcellos**, Service Officer, 1201 S. Main St., Jacksonville, Ill. Claim pending.

4601st Quartermaster Truck Co.—Anyone who can give information concerning **Pvt. Thomas L. Malm** who was discharged Dec. 31, 1946, and whose last known address was Amarillo, Tex., please contact his father, **V. A. Malm**, Mooreland, Okla.

Navy

N.A.S. Opa Locka, Miami, Fla.—Anyone, especially Yeoman 1/c **Robert Locke** and **WAVE Seaman 1/c Sutton**, who remembers **Gladys Alberta Smyers Winter, A.M.M. 3/c** and disability of her legs, please write Mrs. Gladys Tucker, Route 2, Quaker City, Ohio.

U.S.S. Yale and U.S.S. Cap Finistere; Receiving Ship, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Brooklyn

Naval Hospital—Need to contact those who remember **Henry Rickenberg** becoming sick aboard ship between April and October 1919, and being sent by ambulance to the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. Again sent to hospital by ambulance in Sept. 1921. Write his widow, Mrs. Dortha Rickenberg, 179 East 79th St., New York 21, N. Y. Claim pending.

U.S.S. Custer APA-40 and LST-179—Water Tender 2/c Paul B. Sneed suffered ankle injury aboard U.S.S. Custer about March 1944. Soon thereafter he was transferred to LST-179. Anyone who remembers Sneed and anything about his accident, please contact him at 716 Kemper Road, Danville, Va. Needs help to establish claim.

14th Naval Construction Bn., Okinawa—Need help to establish claim. Anyone who served with **Daniel B. Wiggins** during 1945-46, please write him at 316 East 36th Street Court, Savannah, Ga.

MTR Squadron #29, COM PT's Amphibious 12th Fleet—Anyone who remembers the late **Leslie Clanson, Radioman 2/c**, please contact his mother, Mrs. Nina Clanson, 2000 East Russell St., Sioux Falls, S. D. Statements needed to establish claim.

Naval Air Facility, Columbus, Ohio—Any members of the Hospital Corps assigned to Sick Bay during March, 1944, especially **Henry Stafford, CBM (Ret)**, of Detroit, Mich., and **William Heldt, BM 2/c**, of Brooklyn, N. Y., please write **William H. Steward, ex-QM 3/c**, at RFD #1, Harbor Creek, Pa.

Submarine Base, Midway—Need to contact **Russell H. Peterson**, or **Lloyd Coley**, or **Darryl Watkins** who remember **Harry H. Jenkins** falling from the dock, in 1944. Please write Jenkins at 123 W. 7th St., Newton, N. C. Claim pending.

LSM (R) 403 or LSM 548 or LSM 18, Little Creek, Va.—Anyone, especially an officer named **Appa** and an officer named **Dykema**, who remembers **U. (i.g.) Grant Gridley** at Little Creek, Va., in January 1945, please contact **George W. Vasconcellos**, Service Officer, 1201 South Main St., Jacksonville, Ill. Gridley is now hospitalized and needs help to establish claim.

Air

Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz., Sqdn. 60—

The medical officer who examined supply clerk **Cpl. Burt Allen Lisher** in January, 1943, predicted Lisher would have a double hernia, classified him for limited service, and excused him from KP and calisthenics. Officer, who is thought to have been the ranking medical officer at Davis-Monthan at that time, was a major and report of Lisher's condition he is said to have made cannot be found. Lisher is now unable to work because of hernia and other ailments. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the major, please write Lisher at 5619 Blackthorne Ave., Long Beach 11, Cal.

Jackson Army Air Base, Jackson, Miss., 35th Air Base Sqdn., Transient Aircraft, June 1942-Sept. 14, 1943—Anyone, especially those who were photographed on the line in July 1943, who remembers **Samuel Lindenhilf** who suffered a fractured elbow, please write **Samuel Linden**, 109 East 153rd St., Bronx 51, N. Y. Claim pending.

92nd Bomb Group 327th Sqdn.—S/Sgt. Carlos J. McCall, aboard aircraft which was shot down near Pineburg, Germany, May 24, 1944; crew captured same day; moved to Interrogation Center, Frankfurt, Germany; moved to Stalag Luft #4; moved to Nuremberg; moved to Moosburg; released to Allied control, April 29, 1945. Anyone having any information about McCall, contact **Paul M. Whitmire**, Service Officer, Post No. 88, The American Legion, Brevard, N. C. Information needed in processing widow's claim.

Dorr Field Flying School, Arcadia, Fla., Mar. 5, 1918—Jan. 25, 1919; Kelly Field, Dec. 14, 1917-July 5, 1918—Urgently need to hear from anyone who served with **Robert G. Graig**, especially from those who were photographed with him. Write Mrs. Robert G. Graig, 224 North 12th St., Allentown, Pa. Claim pending.

Ablene Army Air Base, Tex.—Would like to contact anyone, especially Sgt. **Williams** who had charge of the Base Dispensary in 1944 or 1945, who recalls the illness of **Lt. Frank R. Cerra** and the treatments he received. Please contact **Frank R. Cerra**, 87 S. Main St., Carbondale, Pa. Need help to establish claim.

310th Bomb Group—While in North Africa in April or May, 1943, Dr. John C. Watkins filled a tooth for **Royal R. Heyer**. Heyer needs Dr. Watkins' help to establish a claim. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Dr. Watkins, please write Heyer at 224 Polk St., Twin Falls, Idaho.

Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., 793rd T.S.S.—Maurice Hackey, needs help to establish a claim. He wishes to hear from **Francis Donahue**. Please write Hackey at Walcott, N. D.

22nd Bomb Group, Langley Field, Va., Jan. 1941-Dec. 7, 1941; Air Corps OCS, Miami, Fla., Sept.-Oct. 1943—Sherman R. Ray, M/Sgt. when discharged with perforated ear drum, Oct. 1943, has been hospitalized since 1944. Anyone having any information about him, please write his wife, Mrs. Sherman R. Ray, 73 Fayerweather St., Cambridge, Mass.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Notices restricted to those which give: Name of outfit; date, city, and meeting place of reunion; name and address of secretary.

Army

1st Armored (Old Ironsides) Div. Assn.—7th annual reunion, Louisville, Ky., August 27-29; Kentucky Hotel. For info write **Russell L. Anderson**, 2240 Alta Ave., New Albany, Ind.

80th Inf. Div. (both WWs)—35th annual reunion, Pittsburgh, Pa., August 4-7; William Penn Hotel. Info from **Harry F. Collette**, 80th Div. Hq., 205 House Building, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

82nd Airborne Div.—8th annual convention, New York, N. Y., July 2-4; Hotel Roosevelt. Info from **Townsend Miller**, Hillcrest Park, Stamford, Conn.

84th Inf. (Railsplitters) Div. (WW2)—9th annual reunion, Philadelphia, Pa., August 23-25; Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. For details write **Frank Pennington**, 101 E. Marthart Ave., Havertown, Pa.

94th Inf. Div. Assn.—4th annual reunion, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 8-11; Hotel Sheraton-Gibson. Write **Charles Misner**, 333 Knox St., Westerville, Ohio.

Co. M, 307th Inf., 77th Div. (WW1)—36th anniversary dinner and reunion, New York, N. Y., March 13; 77th Div. Clubhouse. Write **Henry H. Ringen**, 85 Vermilyea Ave., New York 34, N. Y.

14th Engineers Veterans Assn. (WW1)—Annual reunion and dinner, Boston, Mass., March 20; Hotel Lenox. For reservations write **John E. Fitzmaurice**, 9 Clark St., Norwood, Mass.

Battery F, 63rd Art. (C.A.C.)—35th annual reunion, Tacoma, Wash., March 20; Hotel Winthrop. Write **Jim Copeland**, 1112 So. 23rd, Tacoma 5, Wash.

601st Ordnance Bn., formerly 1st Bn., 301st Ord. Regt.—5th annual reunion, Chicago, Ill., March 26-28; Morrison Hotel. For details write **Carl Eckhart**, Morton Grove, Ill.

3rd Bn., 310th Inf.—Reunion, Columbus, Ohio, March 27-28; Southern Hotel. Info from **Lester Olson**, 1522 N. Buchanan St., Arlington, Va.

626 Tank Destroyer Bn. (WW2)—Annual reunion and banquet, Brighton, Mass., April 17; Metropolitan Hall. For info and reservations contact **Fred O. White**, 18 Spring Park Ave., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

15th Engineers—35th annual reunion, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 24; Fort Pitt Hotel. Info from **William H. Turner**, 238 Eighth Ave., Laurel Gardens, Pa.

Co. C, 752 Railway Operating Bn. (WW2)—Reunion, Pittsburgh, Pa., May 6-8; Roosevelt Hotel. Write **M. I. Jackson**, 511 Grant St., South Fork, Pa.

Co. I, 308th Inf. Regt., 77th Div., AEF—Annual reunion dinner, New York, N. Y., May 8; Rosoff's Restaurant. Info from **Jerome Steinhardt**, 2425 Kings Highway, Brooklyn 29, N. Y.

724th Railway Operating Bn. (WW2)—3rd annual reunion, Gatlinburg, Tenn., June 5-6; Cox's Brookside Court. Details from **J. O. Kopp**, 1508 Shelby St., Sandusky, Ohio.

119th M. G. Bn. Assn. (of the 32nd Div.)—Reunion, Phillips, Wis., July 3-5; American Legion Memorial Hall. Info from **J. E. Slowey**, Phillips, Wis.

17th Base Post Office—Annual convention, Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 4-6; Hotel William R. Baringer. For details contact **Rowland Lomax**, Box 134, Monroe, N. C.

Navy

U.S.S. South Dakota Veterans Assn (WW1)—33rd annual reunion, Everett, Wash., April 3; Monte Cristo Hotel. Contact **Carl Haggland**, 2519 N.E. 59th Ave., Portland 13, Ore.

U.S.S. Chicago (1917-1920 Crew)—34th annual reunion dinner, Philadelphia, Pa., April 24; McCallisters. For reservations write **Paul A. Kline**, 1520 North Conestoga St., Philadelphia, Pa.

U.S.S. Leviathan Veterans Assn (WW1)—31st annual reunion and dinner, New York, N. Y., May 1; Dunhall's Restaurant. Accommodations also available for wives. Info and reservations from **R. L. Hedlander**, Box 22, Greenwich, Conn.

U.S. Naval Veterans 1917-1919—Reunion and banquet, New Castle, Ind., May 1; Plaza Hotel. Info from **R. O. Levell**, Box 163, New Castle, Ind.

U.S.S. Oklahoma Veterans Assn (Commissioning & WW1 Crew)—Reunion, Boston, Mass., May 8-9; Parker House. Info from **Edward H. Lutz**, 673 Lindley Road, Glenside, Pa.

Specialist "F" Assn.—8th annual reunion, Washington, D. C., July 15-17; Continental Hotel. Ladies Auxiliary will also meet at this reunion. Info from **W. E. Garges**, 10 Blackhawk Drive, Forest Heights, Md.

A-PLINKING YOU SHOULD GO

(Continued from page 23)

shooting. Moving targets are easy—if they're big enough, and you recognize the principles involved in hitting them. Keep your "sight picture" in mind. The sight picture when shooting at stationary targets consists of aligning the rear and front sights on the target. With a moving target, say a block of wood swinging on a string, you've got to lead the target. Get your sights in line, and then keep your eyes right on the target.

You'll learn to see the sights without really looking at them. Keep your eyes focused on the target, but so that your field of vision also includes the sights. Shoot with both eyes open. As I said, you'll soon learn to do this—or you'll go back to stationary targets. Don't follow a swinging target from side to side with your rifle and then take random shots. Instead, observe the point at which the target reaches its maximum swing, and then aim at the spot to which it will return.

Stacking one bottle on top of another and smashing both with two quick shots is easy if you know how—hard if you don't. The secret is to aim at the middle of the bottom bottle for both shots. The first shot breaks the bottom bottle and the top bottle usually falls straight down so you break it with the second shot without changing aim. If you try to aim at the top bottle, then shift to the bottom one, you will probably miss the second shot unless you shoot slowly.

Shooting with a card slipped over the muzzle of a rifle looks impossible, but the card is really not much of an obstruction. All you have to do is to aim with *both* eyes open. Then you can see both the target and the sight. As a matter of fact, almost every good shot trains himself to keep both eyes open when shooting at any kind of target.

Hitting a target while blindfolded is a bit harder, but perfectly possible for anyone who knows how to assume a correct prone position. The secret here is to "check your position." Here's how you do it. Get into a prone position and close your eyes. Raise your rifle so that it points naturally. Then open your eyes. You'll be off the target, of course. But don't "muscle" the sights back on the target by pushing or pulling the fore-end. Instead, pivot on your left elbow (which should be directly *under* the rifle) until your sights are naturally pointed at the target. Move your entire body, including your feet. Keep closing and opening your eyes as you do this and soon you'll find that your sights will not waver off the target when you close your eyes. *Then* your helper can place the blindfold over your eyes. If you try to "muscle" the rifle on the target, normal reflex action when

Time to SWITCH to something BETTER?



THE GUY on the left is getting mower out of life—and more power to him!

If you're ready to switch to better things, may we make this suggestion. Compare your present brand with Calvert—the whiskey that is made in a modern million-dollar still and blended to the taste of modern Americans. All you do is:

Sniff a sample jigger of Calvert and your present whiskey for pleasing aroma. Taste each whiskey critically to judge flavor, smoothness—and freedom from bite. Choose the one that really pleases you more!

See if it isn't time for you to switch to something better—a *better* whiskey like Calvert!

FREE WHISKEY TASTE TEST KIT!

Contains 2 glass jiggers, instructions and "Whiskey Expert" cards. Write: Calvert, Room 1321 AL, 405 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. (Offer not good where local regulations forbid.)



Compare...and you'll switch to Calvert

CALVERT RESERVE BLENDED WHISKEY—86.8 PROOF—65% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS.
CALVERT DISTILLERS CORP., NEW YORK CITY

you squeeze the trigger will pull you off the target.

The "mirror shot" is not much harder to learn than using a mirror to shave. In all mirror shots, your targets are in reverse. When you line up your sights on the target, you must overcome your natural instinct to move your rifle in the wrong direction. If your aim is to the left of the target, the mirror will show it to the right. In trying this stunt, it's best to practice first with an empty rifle. Rest the mirror on the stock of your rifle to keep it from wobbling.

If you learn to do this stunt, and would like to get in the league with shooters like Wilbur Cox of Remington or Herb Parsons of Winchester, try firing two rifles simultaneously, one at a target in front of you, and the other aimed with a mirror, at a target directly behind you. This is probably the most difficult of the "mirror" stunts.

Many stunts depend on a misunderstanding of shooting by the spectator. For example, splitting a playing card placed edgewise to the shooter. Even with the edge blackened, this seems an impossibly difficult target, since it is only about a hundredth of an inch thick. At 60 feet, the range at which the experts perform this stunt, it's hard even to see the edge of the card. But remember, a .22 bullet is 22 hundredths of an inch in diameter. And it doesn't have to hit dead center to split the card. It can be as much as a fifth of an inch off on either side, giving you a total margin of more than two fifths of an inch. If two fifths of an inch seems like a small margin to you . . . well, it is! But it's a lot bigger than the 10 ring of the standard 50 foot target. Using a larger caliber bullet than a .22 makes it easier, of course.

A stunt which is even harder, though it may seem easier, is shooting through the open neck of a bottle and breaking out the bottom. The inside diameter of a bottle will usually measure about five eighths of an inch, which leaves only two tenths of an inch clearance around a .22 bullet. Unlike the card stunt, where the shooter doesn't have to worry much about elevation, since he can split the card anywhere along its length, the bottle stunt requires an absolute minimum variation up and down as well as sidewise. Coke bottles are too thick for this stunt. A pint whiskey bottle is fine, but should have been emptied long before you went out.

Drawing a picture on a sheet of tin with bullet holes is another favorite stunt. An Indian head is the traditional portrait. You can do it easily if you take your time, but it takes practice and skill to do it quickly. Ken Beegle, the popular Salt Lake City exhibition shooter, performs this feat in breath-taking fashion, firing at the rate of about one shot a second with an autoloading .22. First step is to practice drawing the picture with a pencil, using a series of dots the size of bullet holes instead of a line. If you can't draw an Indian head with a pencil, go on to the next stunt. It's a sure thing you won't be a Michelangelo with a rifle bullet—or rather, about 250 bullets, because that's how many it takes to shoot the picture. The ammunition companies love this one.

Another good stunt is to shoot through a coin tossed in the air, putting the bullet through either side the spectators want, heads or tails. The success of this shot depends as much on the way the coin is thrown as on shooting skill. The coin must not spin. Instead, it wobbles so that it looks as if it were

spinning. The side the spectator has chosen must be toward the shooter. Try to catch the coin at the instant it stops rising, and before it starts to fall. Aim slightly below it.

Breaking three or more clay targets in the air at once always draws applause. If you try this, don't have your friends with the hand traps throw the targets at wide angles. Have the first bird thrown slightly to the right, the second slightly to the left, the third wider to the left. All targets are thrown simultaneously, of course, but that's the order in which you break them. This way, you don't have to change the direction of your swing. Right-handed shooters usually find it easier to swing to the left than to the right. Professional shooters break five targets in the air with a shotgun, and break single targets with a rifle.

If you want to learn how to hit aerial targets with a rifle, learn first to hit stationary targets quickly. Get used to firing the instant you snap the butt to your shoulder. Then, with an unloaded rifle, practice following thrown targets. When you are able to keep your sights on the target, practice leading and trigger squeeze, with live ammunition. Be sure you can hit large targets consistently before trying smaller targets.

We've been gradually moving from the easier forms of plinking stunts to the tough ones. But I promised to pass along some hints for the guy who never was able to qualify with the rifle in service, or qualified only by illegal use of a .30 caliber pencil. Would you like to amaze your hot-shot friends with your prowess? Would you like to challenge the Post champion to a contest of skill? Pay attention—but don't let on I told you!

These tricks are best done in an indoor range or in the cellar of the Post, as some props are needed. *It is absolutely essential* that you explain those tricks which involve human target holders after you've mystified your audience. Otherwise some nitwit will try them with live ammunition. And you need a commercial bullet trap or a properly angled steel backstop for indoor shooting.

First you knock the ash off the tip of a cigarette preferably held in the pretty lips of your favorite drum majorette. This really sets spectators' hearts to beating. But you fire a blank (and even then, aim it a bit away from the girl, so she won't be hit by the clay wad). The cigarette is an inch of tobacco at the end of a hollow tube. When the rifle goes off, the girl simply blows through the tube, and the ash disappears from the cigarette as neatly as if it had really been shot off.

Another trick is to break an oyster cracker held between an assistant's



"If a certain school teacher made a salary of \$3,468.27 during the year, and had one dependent, how much income tax would she have to pay if she deducted \$345.00 for medical expenses, \$227.00 for donations to charities . . ."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

thumb and forefinger. Faking this one is simplicity itself. You fire a blank, and the assistant crushes the cracker with his fingers. There is no more danger than if you popped some bubble gum. Another favorite performance is to break a Necco wafer or poker chip. The wafer is pinned on a curtain or screen. What your audience doesn't know is that the wafer is really pasted on an inflated balloon, which is concealed behind the curtain. All you have to do, to make the wafer disappear, is to hit the balloon—a comparatively big target.

Still another form of insurance against missing can be used in the "mothball" trick, in which you demolish a mothball at a respectable range with a .22 bullet. The mothball is rigged in front of a curtain, behind which is a rat trap and a big steel plate. All you hit is the concealed steel plate, which releases the spring of the trap. The spring snaps down and shatters the moth ball. Actually, a moth ball is not a difficult target at short range. It's a good bit bigger than the 10-ring of a standard NRA 50-foot target, which measures fifteen hundredths of an inch. Professionals smash aspirin tablets at 60 feet.

Here's one which looks more difficult than it really is, although it is by no means easy at longer ranges (you can make even the most difficult shot simple by moving close to the target). You set up a carving knife with the cutting edge toward you. On either side of the blade, you place a fragile target. Then you shoot at the knife edge, splitting the bullet so that it breaks both targets. The thing your spectators don't know or will forget, is that you don't have to cut the bullet exactly down the center. Even if it splits in two very uneven pieces, you will break both targets. As in the playing card trick, your range of accuracy is almost twice the diameter of a .22 caliber bullet, or very nearly three times the diameter of the 10 ring on the standard 50-foot rifle target.

There's also a fool-proof way to perform this stunt for the self-confessed duffer. You can place a steel plate immediately behind the knife and the targets as a backstop. A lead bullet, when it hits a vertical steel plate, will splatter on impact. Even if you miss the knife blade and both targets by several inches, the splattering effect of the lead can be depended upon to break the targets. *Be sure no spectator is standing close to the target on this one, because he might be hit by a bullet fragment.* The most essential thing for the duffer, whether you want to set down a friend or perform for a bazaar, is to scorn to shoot at easy, conventional targets, and stick to these special tricks where you can bring your intelligence and ingenuity, of which you have a lot, to the



From where I sit by Joe Marsh

Open Even When He's Closed

Must have been daydreaming on my way to a meeting down in Center-ville the other night. My car ran dry before I thought to look at the gas gauge. But I managed to coast into a gas station and was pleased—until I found it closed!

Well, I thought my plans were ruined for sure until I noticed a gasoline can with a sign: "This is emergency gas. Just help yourself and leave the can with \$1.00. Thanks."

Got started again, made the meeting right on time, and had enough gas to get back home again—thanks to a trusting friend.

From where I sit, folks who trust their neighbors make the world a better place to live in. For instance, letting a friend express his personal preferences, is one way of trusting your neighbor. Sometimes I prefer a temperate glass of beer in the evening but I'll always ask what you'd like before I pour yours.

Joe Marsh

aid of your trigger squeeze, which may be that of a jerk—I mean, which may not be as smooth as it should be.

How about handguns? After World War II, in the first great spiritual release of peace (people used to be quite enthusiastic about peace, if you remember, before the Russians discovered they had invented it) there was a great vogue of target shooting with souvenir pistols and revolvers. You can plink with these, too, (though domestic handguns are much better) but make sure first you're clear with the law. In some States it's okay to keep the gun in your house, but you need a special permit to carry or shoot it. Also, because you hold it in one hand, and because it points so naturally, you're more likely to point it in the wrong direction than a rifle. So be careful!

Most anyone can become fairly adept with a rifle, but a pistol takes time and thought and practice. For easy stunts, the best idea (if you have a standard American gun) is to get a smooth barrel and use shot cartridges in it. This is great for breaking small Christmas tree balls thrown in the air—an extremely tough target with a solid bullet. You can also get .22 rifles with smoothbore barrels, with which you can fire .22 shot cartridges. For indoor shooting, look into the special .22 cartridges made for shooting gallery use. They disintegrate into dust on impact, and thus can't ricochet or splatter lead on anyone.

Getting the rifling drilled out of your revolver, which is necessary if you're going to use shot cartridges, is a job for a gunsmith. Shot cartridges won't work in an automatic—they won't feed or function properly. But revolvers bored for shot will still handle single slugs well enough for defense purposes. When I first tried a smoothbore 44-40 revolver on aerial targets, I was amazed to find that it took only a few hours' practice to hit thrown targets three times out of five. And I've never had any special talent with the handgun. With a standard .22 pistol or revolver, you can learn to do most of the stunts which have been described for the .22 rifle.

The one most important rule in

plinking, or in any kind of shooting, is never to shoot carelessly. Take careful aim on every shot, and really try to hit the target. Feeding out the bullets burp-gun style, without thought and effort, is about as effective as going "Bang-Bang" with a stick like a 5-year-old. Careful sighting and a true trigger squeeze do not prevent effective rapid-fire.

Here are a few other safety rules. Don't try aerial shots unless you're positive you've got a clear range of more than a mile, because a .22 bullet will



travel that far if fired at a 30-degree elevation. Aerial shots should be tried only where you can see for more than a mile, and thus be sure the range is clear. Look out for flat surface like water and rock, as the bullet will ricochet. Best plan is to find a spot where there's a hill or a high cut-back to serve as a backstop. Don't depend on a tree; you might miss the tree. Anyway, you can kill a tree if you put enough lead in it. Avoid using hard objects like stones for short range targets... a lead bullet will splatter fragments over a wide area. Don't get careless about the familiar but all-important "10 Commandments of Safety," and don't let anyone else get careless around you, either.

Even when you're just plinking, you need a place to shoot. There are plenty of spots, but unless you own the land you shoot on you need permission. Trespassing without permission is a fine example of how to burn down the barn in order to roast a pig. You do it, you get caught, the land gets posted, and everyone loses. Go to the landowner, tell him you're a Legionnaire, know how to use a gun safely and how to respect other people's property, and you'll get permission nine times out of ten. Don't shoot at signs, or near a road, and police your tin cans and other debris when you leave. Forget the glass targets if you're shooting at a place where broken glass will be a hazard.

What kind of guns are best for plinking? It doesn't matter a great deal, except that you need accuracy to hit small targets at long distances. Among .22 rifles, the bolt action is the least expensive (except in the super-accurate match grades). For rapid fire, a slide, autoloading or lever action repeater lets you shoot faster, and the magazines usually hold more cartridges. Open sights are necessary for aerial shots, though the peep or a scope is a little better at stationary targets. A good combination is a rifle with standard open sights, but with an inexpensive low-power scope which can be readily removed when you're not using it.

That's the story, mates. You see what I mean when I say "Plinking has everything." You'll be astonished at the speed at which your marksmanship will improve. If you keep at it, first thing you know you'll glance in the mirror one morning, and recognize the face of the champeen shooter in the whole world—or at least the whole town. And that ain't bad!

Of course, wonderful fun though plinking may be, we will still want to try one of the real competitive target games when we get to feeling we're pretty hot. And you don't get the same thrill winging a rusty bean can that you get when the target is a wide flaring mallard. But it'll make us better shots, whatever kind of shooting we do.

THE END

PERFECT ALIBI

(Continued from page 13)

murdered Jonas Martin at Monk's Bar & Grill."

"Jonas Martin!" There was real fear in Graham's eyes now.

"Yeh—Martin. We couldn't actually prove you were at Monk's until you told us. Now all the pieces fit together."

"But how about this Otto Zeigler?" yelled Graham. "How about the man I was supposed to have killed at the bowling alley?"

"Zeigler?" Bert Lane rubbed his hand across his cheek and grinned broadly. "I never heard of a man named Otto Zeigler. And I never heard of any murder being committed at the Maybank alleys last night or any other time."

"But you said..."

"I invented Otto Zeigler," smiled Lieutenant Bert Lane, "just as I invented the murder. My idea was to get you so steamed up over proving you weren't

at the Maybank that you'd eventually tell the truth about where you really were."

The lanky lieutenant smiled at his fellow officers. "I'll say this for Ernie Graham," he commented. "He sure played ball. By admitting that he was in Monk's bar with Jonas Martin he cleared himself of a murder that never happened, but he talked his way right into the gas chamber."

THE END

HIS FRIENDS CALL HIM "SOK"

(Continued from page 21)

lish newspapers; he wrote a textbook for Chinese schools, entitling it *Outlines of the Universal History*; and, after three years of courtship and discussion between them on the subject of mixed marriages, he married Rosalind Phang, a Chinese girl who was born in the British West Indies, and educated in English schools.

She died on October 6, 1933, but before her passing Sokolsky wrote of their marriage in *The Atlantic Monthly*:

"Everyone said it must fail. Shall I ever forget how a kindly friend sat before me for hours recounting all the probabilities of failure? Do I not still tremble when I think of the picture he painted of the child's future—if there ever should be a child? And when a Chinese friend—a man who had himself experimented with inter-marriage and failed—spoke to each of us separately and advised against it. Upon me he loaded a fearful responsibility. He said:

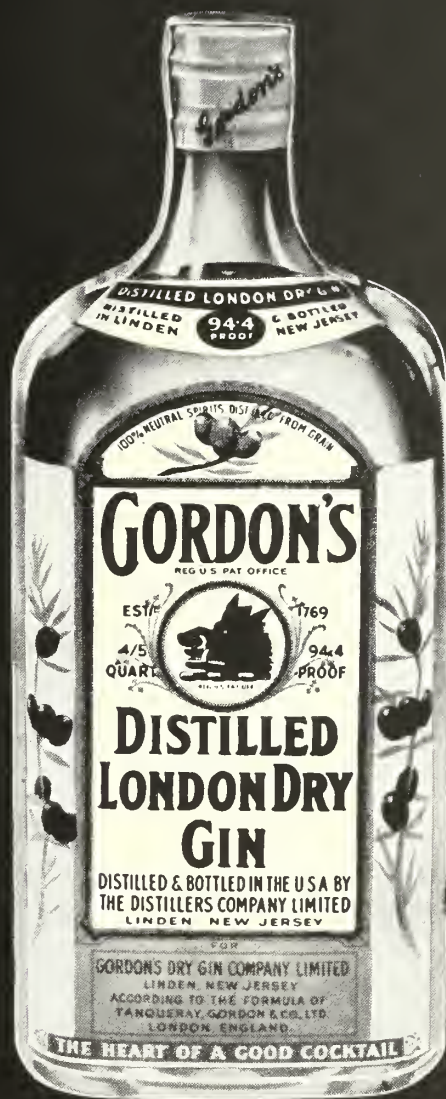
"If you fail, she will have no one to go to. If you are cruel, the Chinese will say it is racial prejudice. If you do not succeed in life, foreigners (Westerners) will say that it is your Chinese wife who keeps you down. And you may come to believe it. If you succeed in life, you may not be willing to admit that a Chinese wife helped you. Unless you are both gentle and careful, you will inevitably fail—not only in your own marriage, but in your lives."

"Then we married — she, Chinese, Christian, British; I, Polish, Jewish, American. She became a woman without a country, for my country would not have her and hers had let her go; I became a part of a mixed world in the East, where the color line is drawn in the foreign settlements."

Sokolsky wrote of the problem of children of such a marriage:

"... The recipe is the whole truth. Over a period of years, commencing with the time when the child begins to ask questions, when he notices the difference between blond hair and black hair, patiently, carefully, the story of his racial origin should be unfolded to him—not nationalistically, not to encourage a superior attitude, not as a political problem, but as a story in which he is an incidental character. The heroine of such a tale should be his mother. Her importance in his young life can never be overestimated. He should grow up to realize that he was brought into the world to take his father's place in looking after her.

"My wife always wonders why our little boy is so good when I am away on my long trips. It is easily explained. When I am at home, he has no responsibility for the welfare of the family or



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for the care of his mother. But when I am gone he is the head of the house. It is a little game that he and I play, with his mother as the center of the picture. Just now it is only a game; later it will become a habit. It will strengthen his faith in her and in himself. He will feel that it is quite all right to have come out of her race. It will not matter what others say—he will know better.”

IN 1931, the call of his own country was so clear that Sokolsky could not close his ears.

Returning with his wife, and child, he located in New York. He saw the last years of the Hoover Administration, and the early months of the Roosevelt era. He recognized the technique of communism in the smearing attacks on Herbert Hoover, was shocked over our recognition of the communist regime in Russia and, with that recognition, predicted the American people would pay dearly for the reversal of an official policy under which, since 1917, four Presidents (Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover) had refused recognition to a godlessness which Sokolsky called “the stench of Europe.”

In 1935 Sokolsky began writing a weekly commentary on the editorial page of the *New York Herald Tribune*. Also, and before 1935, he wrote for the *New York Times* on the Far East. His contributions constituted the basic material for his book *The Tinderbox of Asia*. In addition, he wrote a long series of articles for the *Atlantic Monthly* which were published in a book called *Labor's Fight for Power*.

In 1940, he disagreed with the editors of the *New York Herald Tribune* over the capabilities of Wendell Willkie, whom the newspaper was supporting for the Presidency. By mutual agreement he began writing for the *New York Sun*. Appearing six times weekly, his column soon began attracting editors of other newspapers, and was printed by a number of them.

About this time Sokolsky was visited by a representative of William Randolph Hearst. The purpose of the visit was to persuade Sokolsky to sign a contract with King Features Syndicate, a Hearst auxiliary, for extensive syndication of the column. The proposition was attractive until the question of a New York outlet for the column came under discussion.

Sokolsky was insistent that his work continue to appear in its accustomed place. The Hearst representative was equally insistent that it appear in one of the Hearst newspapers in New York City.

During the give-and-take debate it was brought out that Sokolsky had no written contract with *The Sun*, whereupon the columnist pointed out:

“But, I have. *The Sun* took me when I needed an outlet for my work. With me, that is a contract only *The Sun* can break. It will have to tell me it no longer wants to publish what I have to say.”

When word of the breaking-off of negotiations reached Hearst, he lost no time in communicating with his subordinate, and to this effect:

“I have made some writers rich and some writers famous, but this is my first experience with a writer who is not interested in what I can do for him. Get Sokolsky, and respect his wish as to

WALLY

Cold beer!!?
I want'a Cuppa
Hot Coffee!!



(From March, 1941 A.L.M.)

his contract with the *New York Sun*.”

After the contract was signed, and while Sokolsky remained with *The Sun*, Hearst engaged him to write editorials for the *New York Mirror*. A number of years have gone by since *The Sun* merged with the *New York World-Telegram*, and the publishing rights for the column were taken over by Hearst's *New York Journal-American*. Sokolsky continues to write his column and editorials, satisfied with an unchanged arrangement.

THE RANGE of subjects Sokolsky deals with in his column reveals the pattern of his mind.

Often he writes on religion, once this way:

“No fanaticism of any sect at any time in history is so foully fearful as the paganism that has become the stench of

Europe, and even assails our nostrils in this country. It is a struggle between the God of Love and the gods of hate. It is a struggle between the shrewd materialism that the confusions of science without philosophy, of knowledge without truth, of facts without thought, have employed in the corruption of our manhood and womanhood — it is the struggle between that and the essential need for men to walk again in the image of God unafraid and without shame.”

Writing of Asia:

“To understand these people, we cannot apply western criteria or we shall fail with them altogether, as we have already failed after more than a century of experience in China. . . . We Americans have described things, their production, their wealth, to peoples who accepted a beggar, a camel driver, a child born in a manger as prophets or even as a manifestation of God. Poverty has never been a crime or a sin in Asia.

“This needs to be understood, for we are losing a war without fighting because we are thus far not prepared for victory which can only be won by ideas. Asia can resist a conqueror endlessly and make of his conquest a despair if the people believe he has the wrong ideas. But if they believe the ideas are not wrong, why should they resist mere political change?”

Of peace:

“The search for peace in our times cannot be limited to the meetings, conferences and plans of politicians . . . neither politics nor economics nor war but the spiritual approach to life can provide a guide to living with problems.”

Of Russia:

“It took Stalin 12 years to become an autocrat. How long will it take Malenkov or someone else to become an autocrat and how much blood will be shed before the normal autocracy is established no one can guess. But this seems clear from Russian history: autocracy is the normal political concept of the Russians and whoever can be the autocrat will take over.”

Of dollars:

“The ordinary man on the street knows as much about his own money as the economist. Out-of-pocket economics is very realistic to the person who has to buy.”

Of international brokerage:

“The game of international broker can be played only by the most brilliant minds. At that game, Talleyrand and Bismarck were masters. Woodrow Wilson tried it before and during the Paris Peace Conference and failed. Franklin D. Roosevelt tried it at Teheran and Yalta and he left a legacy of disaster behind him.”

Of foreign aid:

"The people of this country ought to know the facts and realize that the foreign aid program has, from the American standpoint, proved a dud."

Of family responsibility:

"We seem to have grown accustomed to all sorts of social horrors and, what is more, even the clergy, whose business is faith and morals, say nothing these days in condemnation of the lack of family responsibility. Yet, the family is the prime social unit in our society. Destroy the family and our civilization sinks into a swinishness beyond the imagination of the most depraved."

ALTHOUGH his interests are wide, untruthfulness in government and politeness in newspaper reporting are subjects to which he often returns. Among his particular aversions are words "no comment," when uttered by a public official.

"We all know, but we should remember better than we seem to remember," he says, "that public officials are servants of the people. The people pay their salaries, supply the billions they spend, often foolishly, and pay for political mistakes in blood and in treasure in the international jungles that lead to war."

"One of the first duties of a public official is to tell the truth—and yet, there isn't a government in the world (including our own) that does not lie to its people."

"If I were an editor, or a spot news reporter, I would refuse to accept the evasion of 'no comment' from *any* public official. The primary obligation of an editor, or a reporter, is to his reader, and the public official who says 'no comment' to any proper question deserves a hiding, right in public."

"If I were an editor, or a spot news reporter, I would put a stop to all 'off-the-record' interviews, or confidences, by public officials. Whatever a public official said in my presence I would print, if it were worth printing. Furthermore, I would identify the source of my information, no matter what the position of the speaker—and I include Presidents of the United States."

"I would refuse to be a party to any 'trial balloons' by which public officials test the temperature of the political heavens, and charge newspapers with misquoting if the results are stormy. I would not refuse to accept a hand-out in the form of a press release, but I would check the contents for facts before passing it along to my reader. If it were not factual I certainly would inform the public."

"As I said a moment ago, there isn't a government in the world that does not lie to its people—nor, is there a government (including our own) that does not have departments whose sole duty it is to mislead the people."

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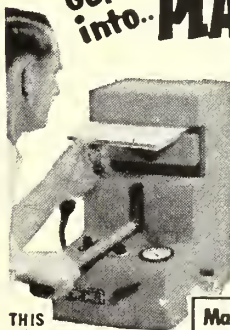
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"Newspapermen have become too polite, or too gentlemanly, or too lazy. I don't know which. But, I do know that the job of a newspaperman is not to be a gentleman. His job is to be a reporter, or an editor—and he is in that job for only one purpose:

"To get the facts, to write them, and to print them.

"It is no part of their job to accept favors from any politician!"

That Sokolsky means what he says is evidenced by his own candor.

In 1944, when Thomas E. Dewey was running for the Presidency against Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dewey used a phrase "military alliance" in one of his speeches as something he favored con-

tinuing after World War II. The idea was popular, and also was supported by Roosevelt.

Although favoring Dewey's election, Sokolsky demanded of the Republican candidate that he clarify his position, reminding Dewey that "a military alliance is a design for making war and always has been a precursor of war. So, Mr. Dewey, why do you advocate a military alliance?

Dewey did not answer.

POLLS HAVE shown Sokolsky to be almost equally popular among men and women readers. One of his readers is Herbert Hoover. Of him, the former President says:

"I consider George Sokolsky not only one of the finest writers of our times, but one of the best informed. He knows history, and writes of it understandingly; he knows religion, and writes of it movingly; he knows economics, and speaks of it in simple words. He knows a happy family life through two marriages, one to a Chinese girl, one to an American girl, and the three children that have come of these marriages are wonderful persons in their own right. He is an American who loves his country, a seeker who instinctively seeks the truth, an observer whose views transcend racial, national and religious affiliations."

THE END

WHEN SHOULD I TRADE MY CAR?

(Continued from page 17)

"A twenty-four Reo—with bus tires. Laugh at that one! And," Lavigne added, "it runs—six days a week."

"But," asked George, still confused, "if a fellow traded at two years wouldn't he do better than at three—and maybe save more than at one?"

Lavigne said nothing. Nova pursed his lips in thought. "Could be, George," said Wilson. "My car is two years old. I've been looking around. I think I'm going to buy a new one. Why? A car doesn't age much in one year. Not much in two years. But from there on it begins to get old. There's no percentage in an old car, not even a twenty-four Reo. I have a feeling a two-year trade is darned good business. Anyway, I'm going to try it. Also," he added, "I'm going to try to figure out just what my transportation has been costing. I've already bought two tires."

One year. Two years. Three years.

Five years. Ten years. Twenty-four years. Through the afternoon it was hard for George to keep his mind on his work. Buying a new car had always been an event in his life. As soon as a new car passed its prime—whenever that was—George looked forward to the day he would trade and buy another "new and beautiful." Trouble was he didn't know when that time would arrive.

He knew, without being too specific in his knowledge, that it was the dealer who held the answer to when it was best for George to trade. He didn't know that according to the dealer's "book"—and he has such—a car's average trading value drops a third the first year.

That drop of a third has a reason. If a car's life were ten years and it cost \$2000 maybe it should, theoretically, drop 10% a year, which would be \$200. So, the dealer would try to sell your

year-old car for \$1800. But the buyer would say: "Listen! Pay eighteen hundred for somebody's cast-off? Why, for sixteen-sixty-six a month more for twelve months I can get a brand-new one!" So, your car has to drop well below the new car price before buyers are interested. And, from whatever it will sell for, the dealer has to deduct numerous costs plus a profit. Used car buyers, not dealers, fix that one-third.

George was also quite aware that mileage counted. Condition, too. He knew a fellow could "drive a car into the ground" in a year. But what was the relationship of miles and years? What neither George, nor Nova, nor Wilson, nor Lavigne, had discovered was that—

THERE IS IN EACH CAR'S LIFE A "FIRST PERIOD" AND THIS "PERIOD" IS BASIC IN CONSIDERATION OF WHEN TO TRADE.

This "First Period" is the period of *No Repairs*. How long is it? It varies—20,000 up to 30,000-plus miles. Other factors, such as usage, enter in, but the "Period" still is there—and has been for many years. Probably it always will be.

Years ago there was a saying: "Trade when your first set of tires wears out." Then, cars and tires got better. The saying was forgotten, but there still is some sense in it.

A new car should run for quite a while with practically no repairs. Modern tires will run from 15,000 to 35,000 miles. Let's call it 25,000. At about that point other expenses begin to loom. A battery. Brakes. Muffler and tailpipe. We are going to spend some money if we keep the car and if we spend it we are entering the "Second Period," heading for a higher mileage.

Sam Severn, who did 25,000-plus a year, elected to trade before he got into the "Second Period." He took his trading loss, even if it cost a bit more, and avoided the perplexities and expenses of further ownership. Sam "drove through



"Sure you won't stay for some curried snails with hot fudge sauce?"

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

his first set of tires" and then called it quits.

George had got well into the "Second Period." A tire went, so he bought a new tire and tube, at \$27. He really didn't intend to enter this "Second Period." It sort of sneaked up on him. Before he knew it, he had bought four tires and was out \$100. The battery took \$20 more. The brakes became uncertain and that job turned out to be \$60. As sometimes happens, the muffler and tail-pipe rusted out and he paid \$25. Before he realized what was going on he had invested \$200 in his car.

Now he did hate to trade, with all that good rubber, new battery, good brakes and stuff. The only sensible move seemed to be to keep on driving. At the time he strolled over to see Sam Severn, George's car had 41,000 miles on it. It wasn't an excessive mileage, but added to it was the fact that his '51, bought late in 1950, was in its fourth year. Time to trade now?

Miles count, but age is a factor that can't be ignored in used car selling. George had taken good care of his car, but anyone who considered buying it was bound to think: "Over three years. Any car that old simply *must* be well worn or on its way to being so. Let's look at something not so old."

In a car's first year its trading value shrinks a third. In its second year about 15%. Thereafter, for several years 10% or less of the new car price. After the 30% and 15%, earlier or later trading won't make much difference. But condition will count.

Let's add it up and see what happens. Sam Severn said he got \$1800 for his car, and paid only \$600. If his loss had been the "book" one-third, he would have paid \$800.

Wilson planned to trade his \$2400 car at two years. Give him 30% the first year, 15% the second, and he'll get \$1320, and pay \$1080. To that he must add \$50 for tires, making it \$1130. That's \$526 a year, \$274 less than the \$800 the "book" says Sam should have paid, but only \$74 a year less than what he said he paid.

Let's have Nova trade his \$2400 car at three years. Shrinkage, about 55%; \$1320. Tires and things, \$200; total \$1520. Per year, \$506. Little difference between two and three years. Going further depends on miles and repairs. Figures used here are for the New York area, but the formula won't vary much generally.

Actually, whether the one-year trader, like Sam, really "saves money" depends on what he can get for his old car.

Can a fellow make a deal? Indeed he can! With new models due, and "old ones" on hand, a dealer must unload. One such dealer recently tucked under



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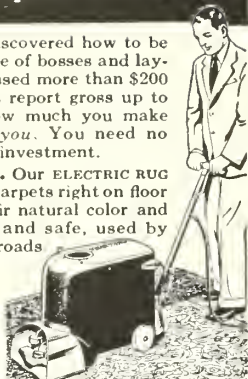
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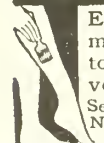
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the wiper of a '41 Plymouth a card asking if the owner would take \$600 for his car. Surely the dealer was ready to trade for more than the \$135 listed in "the book." And his "old models" are brand-new pieces of machinery.

Of course, if one is to drive a car "forever" the trade-in doesn't matter, for cars over ten years old, regardless of make or price when new, list at around \$100, seldom near \$200. A '41 Cad, f.o.b. new at \$2595, lists at \$160. So does a '42 Chevy, f.o.b. \$957 when new.

Tangled in George's problem, even if he never let it come downstage, was that enduring and persistent thing called "style." We can't laugh it off, and no discussion of trading economics would be complete without reference to it. There's more to life than dollars and cents, else why fresh paint, wallpaper, neat lawns, shrubbery, new clothes?

It has a relationship to what we might call "family morale," a priceless thing,

not unconnected with health itself. Any way you figure, there is no startling economy in any trading point. Even the person who, for income reasons, buys an ancient car and nurses it along, might be flabbergasted if he "kept books" on his operation. The \$100 one hopes to save by delaying getting a new car could be a false economy. There are times when answers to life's problems are best sought with not too sharp a pencil.

Trade at one year? It depends on what you can get for your old car. From two years on you might be surprised to find you are paying for a new car but not having one. Try "keeping books" and see.

Do your hardest thinking when you are getting to the end of that "First Period," and have thus far spent practically nothing for upkeep. If it takes you two years, or more, to reach or pass 25,000, that surely is a time to ponder.

THE END

SO MANY CHILDREN

(Continued from page 25)

turning up in too many places. Presently he became accepted by the gangsters. He learned that a single crooked drug-gist was selling thousands of these stimulants. The arrest and conviction of that one druggist stopped the leak.

Both drug addiction and juvenile delinquency, though they affect only small numbers of the total population, take on frightening aspects when we look at some little-known economic figures that need spotlighting:

Forty years ago there were nine "producing" Americans for every six non-producers. "Non-producers" are children and old people in the dependency ages, together with helpless invalids or cripples, mental cases, and criminals in prisons. *Between 1920 and 1930 the two classes pulled even:* as many workers as non-workers. Between 1940 and 1950 the non-producers went ahead. And between 1950 and 1960, the estimators say, there will be only *eight producers to care for every fourteen non-producers.*

That makes rough reading.

It means that every time, during the years ahead toward 1960, any boy or girl who might become a self-supporting, contributing member of the community becomes instead a dependent there'll be just that much less help in pulling the load, carrying along the schools and the courts and the recreation grounds and the hospitals and prisons that we have to have. Instead, there'll be that much more *added* to the cost of carrying non-workers, in added hospital expense, or free food and lodging—guards too—in jail.

To hold down the cost of non-producers we need also a lot more safety

education: at home, in driving courses, everywhere. Accidents, today, take nearly as many lives and make more cripples, of children, than all the diseases of childhood put together.

Fortunately we're beginning to learn that a lot of boys and girls struck down by accidents or disease can be rehabilitated. It is one of the brightest spots in the whole producers-versus-non-producers picture.

Last year \$32,600,000 was spent by the Federal Government and separate States in rehabilitating 64,000 persons who were then placed in successful employment. One of five of them came directly from relief rolls, many others were disabled veterans. Together their productive work now totals more than 100 million work hours a year. Even at a dollar an hour that means more than three times the entire cost, each year, of rehabilitating them. In income taxes alone, during the years ahead, they will pay back to the Government more than *ten times* the cost of rehabilitating them.

More and more, through the years ahead, the importance of getting such work done in time, in helping handicapped persons before they become permanent dependents, will have to be emphasized.

The good health that helps ward off disease is even more important than the safety education that helps prevent accidents. From morning to night, winter and summer, our mounting millions of teen-agers will be either growing into strong, healthy men and women—or becoming invalids.

Health, outdoors, and recreation go together. For the years ahead we've already made a fine start in all three. But

so far it's hardly more than just a start.

It's not enough, for instance, that Legion Junior Baseball, started in 1925 with the first tournament in 1926, has been a smashing success. There are hundreds of thousands of boys, not too keen on baseball, who might gain still more from other games if they were readily available. There are girls who want to play field hockey, or bowl, who haven't yet got the chance. It's the recreation facilities as a whole that will count most with our oncoming armies of children.

In Brattleboro, Vermont, there is an American Legion Junior Baseball Team. Fine! There is also a Little League team. Fine again! Also a Pony League team. Fine for the third time. But there is only one baseball diamond in the recreation area, and it just isn't enough to go around.

Outdoor games must increase steadily, just as baseball has, and health will increase with them, once they get well started. Tennis needs tennis courts; then, what devotees! Badminton, particularly for girls as well as boys, is not far behind. Deck tennis is as good a game ashore as afloat, and is a wonderful developer of both wind and coordination. Horseshoes are perennially popular. Archery, with a little instruction and reasonable precautions, is grand.

Indoor recreation rooms, in northern cities, are almost as important as outdoor areas. They are needed in still greater numbers.

Scouting, for either boys or girls, usually accomplishes wonders along the same lines. Looking ahead, the Boy Scouts of America are starting an ambitious research project, in cooperation with the University of Michigan, into teen-age desires and needs. It's a sign they're awake to the needs and dangers of the great teen-age years that are rushing at us.

In 1950, city population went ahead of country population. It's the trend. More and more boys and girls in cities, fewer and fewer of them growing up on farms. But human beings thrive on Nature; the wind and the trees, the clouds and the sky, rain and grass and flowers and the wild life of fields and woods. It's hard to reach full stature and understanding in plastered rooms and on cement sidewalks. Here and there—in Texas, in Michigan, in New York and Ohio and California—cities are beginning to experiment with camping for school children. In San Diego each city child gets at least two weeks in camp, right during the school year, with parents paying only the amount the boy or girl would cost them at home for the same length of time.

School camping of some such sort may turn out to be the very thing to

help make us a healthier, less crime-ridden nation.

And what about training for government?

There the Legion has been doing an outstanding job since 1935. Boys' State, Boys' Nation, Boys' and Girls' County Government are giving a touch of actual experience to more than 18,000 young leaders in every State. But remember: a 50 percent increase in teenagers will mean stepping that number up to 27,000 just to hold the proportion we have now.

Another important thing: Your town may have already set up a Mental Hygiene clinic. Half of the beds in our hospitals are taken up with mental cases already; more and more, for greater and greater numbers of young people as the noise and confusion of our mechanical civilization becomes increasingly hard to take, sound psychiatric advice must be readily available. A lot of parents as well as the young folks themselves are going to need it—if we want to cut down the suicides and sudden outbreaks of murder that make black newspaper headlines.

All these varied things lead up to the most important single influence in the development of our children's minds and character, aside from their home life: their schools. Is our great American school system, set to give a free education to every boy and girl in the nation from kindergarten to college, equal to the towering job ahead?

At present we are all inclined to say, and to think: "Of course." But there are a lot of unpleasant facts that come back with "Oh, yeah?"

First of all we have to appraise the school equipment, the schools and classrooms themselves—already, as we noted at the beginning of this article, so overcrowded in some places kids have to be subjected to double shifts.

We can take a specific illustration. Greenfield, Indiana, is a well-to-do town of about 7,000 people, not far from Indianapolis. An Associate Director of the Child Welfare Division of the Legion, Charles Geile, is on the school board there. They are just completing two fine new elementary schools to help take care of the great unexpected surge of young children. Next they've got to have more room for junior and senior high-school students, as the wave rolls higher. So maybe a new high school? But the town has already reached its bonding limit, set by the State. Plenty of good Greenfielders are already kicking about the money being spent for education and think the amount should be cut down, rather than being built up still further. Where are the additional millions that are already needed to come from?

Public schools and colleges, the coun-

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try over, already represent an investment that runs well toward 20 billion dollars. When you add private schools and colleges, the total tops 24 billion. It already takes more than \$7,500,000,000 to keep up with it: interest on bonds, new classrooms, teachers' salaries. Everywhere taxpayers feel oppressed by the amounts being spent for schools. Yet even the most conservative estimates indicate that the yearly total will have to rise to \$10,000,000,000 to keep up with the procession. Can belts be tightened that much more?

Greenfield is a prosperous town in a prosperous State. Many towns and many States are going to find it harder still to raise the necessary funds for a vastly enlarged, and possibly improved, school system. In Delaware the per capita income is \$2,076; in Connecticut it is \$1,999, in New York \$1,996, in California \$1,933, and in Illinois \$1,928. Those are the five richest States, and in all of them the majority of cities and towns are already complaining about spending so much money for schools. But Alabama has only \$950 per capita, Arkansas \$926, and Mississippi \$771.

It's something to think about, hard.

There are four big educational sponsoring agencies: the U. S. Office of Education, the P.T.A., the National Education Association, and The American Legion. The Office of Education has done the most figuring on the subject, and is the most gloomy.

Stepping right on the heels of this first school problem, of money, is the second: teachers.

There just aren't enough teachers to go around. And each year the situation is getting not better, but worse.

In one West Virginia school area, 21 years ago, there were 400 teachers and 1,200 applications for extra jobs, if any should happen to turn up. That was right after the worst of the depression. Ten years later, when 60 new teachers were needed, there weren't enough applicants to fill the jobs. And last year, in that same area, 75 new teachers were wanted, and there were just three teachers who applied for work.

Even the best teacher in the world, with more children than she can handle, can't do a good job. It doesn't make a very bright picture for the avalanche of new teen-agers coming along.

Last year 45,700 teachers-to-be graduated in June from normal schools and teacher's colleges. The country over, 118,000 new teachers were needed. That left 72,300 teaching jobs to be filled, if they could be filled at all, by anyone who could be picked up, trained or untrained.

In a placid way the National Education Association is deeply concerned about the situation. In 1937, when teacher shortages first began to become

acute, they started the Future Teachers of America, a professional fraternity for teachers-to-come. It is a fine organization, built around Horace Mann's exhortation: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." Today its membership, including the majority of high school, normal school, and college students who plan to become teachers, totals 56,742. That's fine as far as it goes—but it means only 15,000 or so graduates a year, to fill the yawning gap in the teaching profession.

Individual States have been slow, are still being slow, to recognize the seriousness of the situation. Only eight, so far, have delegated anyone to help recruit new teachers.

The third big school problem is: What should our children be taught, to prepare them for the changing world that lies ahead of them?

The boy whose father chided him for his poor history marks wasn't kidding when he said: "Well, Pop, there's a lot more history since you were a kid." There's more history, more science, more sociology, more politics, more government, more everything.

The high school at Suffern, New York, has an Atomic Energy Club. Its aim is to help prepare future citizens—and present citizens too—for life in the atomic age. Anyone who wants to know more about atomic energy and atomic action can join the club: students, teachers, town reporters, anybody. High-school classes study the implications of atomic energy in the fields of medicine, agriculture, crime, as well as industry and war. Fission and fusion are explained with tinker-toy models. Trips are made to places like Brookhaven, on Long Island, to study actual atomic piles.

Is the high school your boy and girl will attend doing as well as that?

Thousands of letters asking for atomic information, from teachers and students in all the States, are received each year by the Educational Service Branch of the Atomic Energy Commission. As a result teacher workshops and atomic energy seminars are beginning to spring up in various spots: at Harvard, at the University of Illinois, at Stanford, at New York University and the University of Maryland. Idaho and Oregon, as well as a number of cities, have begun to do something about atomic energy instruction. But it's still hardly more than a hesitant beginning. Everybody's interest in the whole subject of where atomic energy is going to take us is obviously needed.

What about the implications of flight? Already planes are capable of traveling at 1650 miles an hour, twice the speed of sound. New York and Alaska, Chicago and the Cape of Good Hope, Miami and Tokio and Calcutta

and Buenos Aires and Australia are being drawn closer together every month. Presently our children will be only a jump away from Indo-China—and the other way around. Are their teachers preparing them for such things?

Other curriculum changes will probably have to stress such things as character and leadership. Boys' State is an extra activity, just as Scouting is; neither is a substitute for what children have to be learning through the school year. How are consideration, cheerfulness, persistence, self-control, ambition and



"You might hide that look of relief until I'm gone!"

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

helpfulness to be developed through the many hours at school?

What about the ability to get along well with other people? Each year, nowadays, sees us living under more crowded conditions. Apartment houses are getting bigger, but the rooms grow smaller. Individual houses are getting much smaller. Living quarters become steadily less spacious. Families bunch up; the three boys sleep in a single room; the young married couple moves in with the old folks. It puts more and more emphasis on avoiding friction, on good social qualities.

A few colleges, and still fewer high schools, are beginning to offer courses in human relationships: Previews of marriage, family finance, how to be a better parent, how to be a better son or daughter. "Domestic science" is being broadened into "domestic relations"—but not nearly fast enough.

Social Science lags far behind the physical sciences—but our children are going to need far more knowledge of Social Science than school ever gave us.

Every one of the problems touched on in this article—slum clearance, more and better recreation rooms, drugs, mental hygiene clinics, Scouting, camping for city children, more games and

outdoor play areas, rehabilitation for the unlucky ones who get knocked down in one way or another—and the still more important matters of more and better schools, recruiting teachers, changing and improving the subjects that are taught—are being thrown into our laps by this great wave of children. To The American Legion, with its 17,200 Posts scattered from Coast to Coast, they offer a tremendous challenge.

No two Posts are alike. The record of their past accomplishments in the whole field of social service and civic betterment is as varied as it is stimulating. Lincoln Village Post 833 at Long Beach, Calif., makes wheelchairs for crippled children. Willamette Woman's Post 161 at Eugene, Ore., is plugging for a child guidance clinic. Stewart P. Merrill Post 35 at South Portland, Me., has provided money for physical exams for high-school freshmen: \$315. Yule-Sutter Post 42 at Marysville, Calif., has sponsored dances every Saturday night for 300 to 500 teen-agers. Gen. George W. Goethals Post 257 on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., has spent \$6,714 on wasteland that is to become eventually a public playground. Post 131 at Chicago Heights, Ill., has given still more to renovate an old school building as a recreation center for the entire township.

There is no rule, and the roll is endless.

In small towns the Legion Post is often the center of community activity. In large cities there may be an opportunity for leadership in coordinating the efforts of different civic groups; in the State of Indiana, for example, there are 67 separate organizations interested in helping crippled children, with their various activities often parallel or competing. Everywhere the big job ahead, forced on all of us by the unanticipated increase of millions in the number of children, is one for everybody: for the Federal Government at the top, for each State at the next level, for each city and town and community, for each Legion Post, and for each individual in that Post.

The whole picture was summed up in the *Washington Post* last December:

"What a dilemma, and also what an opportunity has developed because the nation is so heavily populated with inhabitants under 12—a situation that has probably not been duplicated for a century. This is the big generation that will begin voting in the 1960's, that will begin running the country in the 1970's. It is also the generation that will be pitted against far greater numbers of disciplined, regimented opposites from the totalitarian world. It will need all the health, character, stamina, and education the generation of today can give it."

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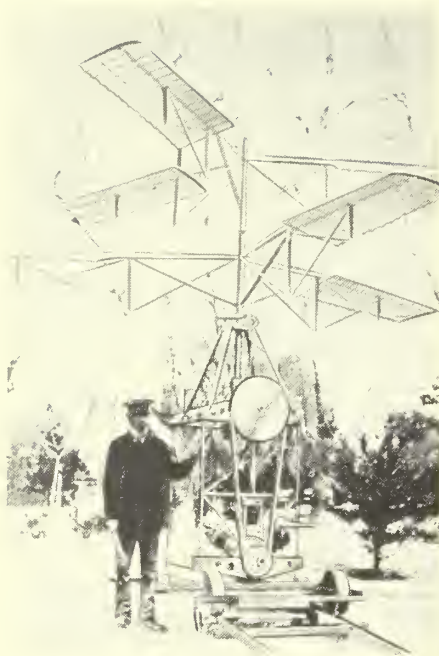
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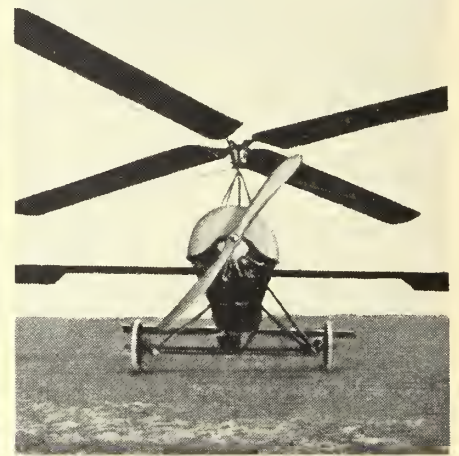
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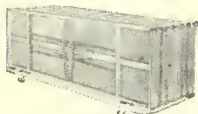
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(Continued from page 27)

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You have another question: "How about renting my house before selling it? Can't I deduct a loss on income-producing property?" You certainly can. No loss is deductible before you convert your house to rented property. But a loss is deductible after you have rented it, and then sold it. Such a loss is deductible only for the time after the conversion.

There are other advantages in renting your house before selling it. You can then deduct all repair and maintenance expenses on the rented house. You can also deduct on your income tax return depreciation expenses from the date of the renting.

For example, take Mr. X. He paid \$10,000 for a house and land; cost of house \$8,000, cost of land \$2,000. He then moved out when the whole thing was worth \$9,000 and he rented the house for two years. It cost him \$1,000 for repairs, so he deducted that on his income tax for that year. As a result of depreciation and lowering of value for two years he had lost \$2,440 by the time he sold it for \$6,000. The entire \$2,440 was deductible on his income tax return for that year because the property was used in his business, that is, for the production of income.

You should make repairs immediately after you buy a house and before you move in. Then they can be added to the cost as a result of making the property suitable for use. If you wait until later, you can't get credit for those expenses. Take the cases of Mr. Y and Mr. Z:

	Mr. Y	Mr. Z
May, 1950, each bought a house at same price:	\$14,000	\$14,000
June, 1950 Mr. Y made repairs at once after purchase. He could add this to cost. . . .	\$ 3,000	
September, 1950, Mr. Z made similar repairs. He could not add his to cost		\$ 3,000
July, 1951, basis for new sale was	\$17,000	\$14,000
July, 1952 both properties sold for	\$20,000	\$20,000
Gains on the sales were:	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000
But the tax on the gains were:	\$ 333	\$ 690

Mr. Y thus saved \$357 by making his repairs at once. Mr. Z did not actually have a profit of \$6,000 because the cost of his repairs, \$3,000 was not deductible, and could not be added to the original cost. He should not have waited until after moving in to make the repairs.

When you make out your income tax, you must report the details of the sale or exchange of your personal residence in Schedule D of form 1040 (Capital Gains and Losses) in the year the sale or exchange takes place. If you sell, and do not buy another house, report your gain. If you sell, and then purchase another house within the year, report the amount of your non-recognized taxable gain in column 8 of Schedule D. Attach a statement showing the purchase price, date of purchase,



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and date of occupancy of the new residence. If the whole transaction has not been completed and the time for replacement not expired, report none in column 8. When the purchase has been completed, advise the Director of Internal Revenue in your district in writing, giving full details.

If you change your mind after selling your old house, and decide not to buy a new one, or if the replacement period has expired, make an amended return. Show the amount of the gain, and pay the tax. If a year has passed you must pay interest at 6% on the amount of your gain. This interest can mount up and it must be paid no matter what the circumstances. The income tax bureau can assess a deficiency tax on unpaid taxes any time the transaction is uncovered, even after 20 years. A taxpayer who fails to pay his tax may be discovered after 20 years. His tax, with interest, might well amount to more than his gain.

Now for some important conclusions: 1. Get advice from a competent attorney if you have any doubts about your transaction. But see him before the transaction is made.

2. If you want to sell at a profit and pay a tax, wait until you have lived in the house six months so only one-half your gain is taxable.

3. If you plan to rent your house and move, don't make repairs until you leave. Repairs on the rented property will then be deductible as an expense.

4. If you're going to lose on your sale, rent before selling. Only a loss after conversion to rental property is deductible on your income tax return. While Federal stamp taxes are not deductible, state stamp taxes are deductible in full.

5. If you're going to make repairs, do so promptly after buying so they can be added to cost and give you a higher basis for future sale.

6. When you sell, buy another house within a year. If building, move in within 18 months after beginning of construction.

7. Keep your bills for repairs or replacements. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between repairs and replacements, but the principle is that a repair is an expenditure to keep the property in efficient operating condition while a replacement is an improvement that increases its value. The cost of repainting before a sale is a repair expense. It is not deductible and is not allowed as an improvement.

8. A replacement adds to the value. Add it to the cost of your property so your taxable gain will be lower when you sell.

9. When you buy a house, check to see if there is a tax lien on the property. Also check to see whether the buyer

or the seller is entitled to deduct local taxes on his Federal income tax.

10. Remember you can deduct depreciation only on rented property. Start such deductions from the day the property is rented. If you forget for any period of time, you cannot reclaim it.

11. Buying a new house and selling it before you sell your old house does not come under the special rule.

12. You can take advantage of the special rule if you temporarily rent the old home until you are able to sell it. Or you can temporarily rent the new house before taking occupation. The emphasis is on the word *temporarily*.

13. You don't have to be living in the old house at the time of the exchange or sale to take advantage of the rule.

14. Many people, such as farmers, doctors, dentists, use their property

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partly for residence and partly for business. When there is an exchange or sale that part of the property used as a residence comes under the rule.

15. The starting point to figure gain or loss is the cost. If the house was given to you after December 31, 1920, the cost is what it was to the giver, or to the last person who paid something for it. If you inherit it, the cost is the fair market value at the death of the decedent. If you buy it, the cost is the purchase price plus improvements you make. Legal expenses in defending the title are also a part of the cost.

16. The tax on any gain may be postponed by having the sale qualify as an installment sale. If the initial payments do not exceed 30% of the selling price, only a fraction of the gain needs to be reported for each year of the payments. This is of advantage to the seller for he can spread his profit over the period the payments are made and he does not have to pay all the tax during the year of the sale.

17. If your house is destroyed by fire or cyclone the insurance proceeds are considered the selling price and the special rule still applies.

18. If there are two purchases of residences within a year, only the last purchase comes under the rule.

If you need specific advice, write to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington 25, D. C. Give all the facts and name all the parties concerned.

THE END

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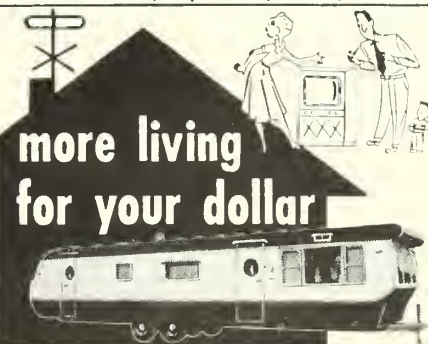
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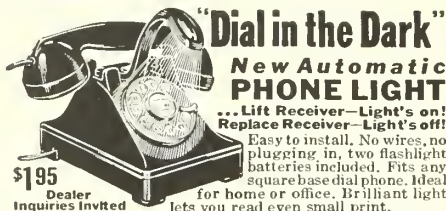
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COMMUNISM IN THE UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 15)

as a means of disseminating communist propaganda. They are established either by actually organizing a new group around a particular issue or by infiltrating a legitimate existing organization. Among those who participate in front groups are open Communist Party members, concealed communists, fellow travelers and communist sympathizers.

Legal action has been taken with respect to such organizations. The Internal Security Act of 1950 provides that organizations determined by the Subversive Activities Control Board to be communist front organizations, and officers of these organizations, must register with the Attorney General; and certain restrictions are placed upon such organizations and persons. The Subversive Activities Control Board has been holding hearings on certain organizations on the Attorney General's list, to determine whether they are communist front organizations within the provisions of this Act.

It is highly important that any person "Stop, Look and Listen" before he allows his name to be used by any newly created organization with whose aims he is not completely familiar.

Q. You have often predicted that the communists would go underground when things became hot. With public resentment increasing, hasn't there been a general movement from open communist organizations to more or less nebulous front organizations?

A. Very definitely. Almost all Communist Party activity is being carried on in a disguised manner. Many of the top leaders and most trusted members of the party have gone underground, and the rank-and-file membership carry on party activities through communist front organizations and even through infiltrating legitimate organizations. For example, under party instructions they have joined Parent-Teacher Associations, church, civic and similar groups in which you would not expect to find them. They are transferred to different sections of the country where they assume fictitious names and backgrounds and infiltrate unsuspecting groups and right-led labor unions in order to further the communist program. Therefore it will be increasingly difficult for unsuspecting citizens to detect communist influence in organizational activities.

Q. This, then, means a tougher problem for Americans since the fight moves into a twilight zone. Issues are confused, and the public is confused. How can communism be fought most effectively in America today?

A. I have always felt that an alert, informed citizenry is our most potent weapon against communism. The vast

majority of Americans are patriotic, loyal citizens. They abhor treachery, deceit and any forces which would deprive us of our freedom and democratic liberties, and will not long tolerate the perpetuation of such evils. Through the schools, churches, press and radio, the public should be given the facts about communism. Not through demagoguery or appeal to their prejudices and fears, but through a clear, factual, truthful presentation, the public should continue to be informed of the real purposes, objectives, loyalties and methods of operation of the Communist Party. Because communist strategy is based on deceit and its true motives are concealed, communism cannot flourish under the spotlight of truth. The more fully it becomes exposed to the public eye, the more limited becomes its area of effective operations and the more restricted the number of people who will be duped into serving its evil purposes.

Along with informing the public of the truth concerning communism, and publicly exposing it as the foreign-inspired conspiracy that it is, another effective method of fighting communism is by prosecuting communists for violations of Federal law.

Q. Where can the private citizen go to get authentic information about organizations and individuals he suspects?

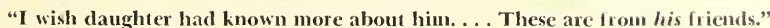
A. To determine the organizations which have been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450, one should either contact the Department of Justice or refer to issues of the "Federal Register" dated May 12, 1953, July 21, 1953, and October 6, 1953, which contain all designations by the Attorney General up to September 25, 1953. The fact that a particular organization does not appear on the Attorney General's list, however, does not necessarily mean that the organization is clear of subversive influence. Actually that organization may be under investigation, and an individual should be careful of what organizations he joins and should keep his eyes open to detect communist influence. With regard to obtaining authentic information about individuals he suspects as being communists, there is no one single source to which he can go to obtain complete information. The FBI must necessarily keep the contents of its files confidential.

Q. How can the individual assist the FBI in its investigation of subversive activities?

A. By voluntarily furnishing any information he may have concerning subversive activities to the FBI, and by co-operating in any way he can when requested to by the FBI, the individual

A. By Presidential directives, legislative enactments and instructions of the Attorney General the FBI has the responsibility of investigating espionage, sabotage, subversive activities and related domestic intelligence matters and of serving as a coordinating agency for the dissemination of domestic intelligence information to other Federal agencies authorized to receive it. The FBI is a fact-finding agency and does not institute prosecutive action on the basis of its investigative findings. Information reflecting a violation of Fed-

A. The assistance which ex-communists have given to the FBI has been invaluable. Having had their eyes opened to the true nature of the communist conspiracy, many of them have re-evaluated the privileges of American citizenship, have realized the duties inherent in such citizenship, and, through making a full disclosure to the FBI of



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the information they possess, have made contributions of great value to the internal security of this country. The truth of their testimony has been verified by corroborating evidence. Many ex-communists have been tested by vigorous and searching cross-examination, and their opponents have been unable to contradict their testimony. Many of them have suffered ostracism, public rebuke and social distrust as a result of their breaking with the Communist Party and testifying against it. All religions teach that redemption is possible for any man who sincerely repents and seeks to make amend for his errors. The sincerity of a former communist can be judged by his willingness to stand up and be counted and by taking positive action to attempt to rectify his wrongs. I am always glad to see ex-communists make their change of conscience and philosophy a matter of record, assume earnestly the responsibilities of good citizenship and join in the fight against the evil they formerly espoused, and I welcome the information which they can furnish.

Q. We have asked about past and present dangers. Can you indicate what the communists are planning for 1954 and later?

A. The Communist Party has three primary plans for future action. One is the infiltration of labor. In this respect the party is concentrating on the infiltration of "right-led" unions, or non-communist-dominated unions, and labor unions in the basic industries. Its vicious purpose is both to influence the trade union movement in this country and to be on the ground floor in the event the labor movement ever forms a third major political party in the U. S.

A second diabolical plan is to infil-

trate and strengthen its ties within the two major political parties in this country, in order to advance more effectively the interests of the Communist Party within the existing political framework and to bring about a new political realignment in this country on the basis of which the Communist Party hopes ultimately to be the dominating force.

A third and probably the most important plan is the continuation of the so-called "peace offensive." Here the communists are attempting to capitalize on the deep desire of the American people for peace. They would lay sole claim to any real efforts to achieve that goal; yet it is their Soviet masters who make the achievement of world peace so difficult. In order that we may not be misled by communist peace propaganda, it is important that we understand the Marxist-Leninist distinction between two kinds of peace—lasting peace, obtained only after world revolution; and temporary peace, regarded as a tactical necessity as the tide of revolution ebbs and flows. In short, the peace which figures so prominently in communist propaganda today is a temporary tactical peace designed to strengthen the Soviet Union and to stupefy its adversaries.

Q. The lone individual often feels he can do nothing to fight communism, and in most cases there is not a great deal he can do. However, there are some things open to him. What are they?

A. Every loyal American citizen can and should join in the fight against the communist menace. These are some of the things each person can do:

1. Learn the facts about communism—its history and objectives, its program and techniques in this country. The better informed one becomes, the more



"Do I wash the back too?"

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

rapidly he can detect communist influences and the more intelligently he can fight communism.

2. Through such media as the press and radio, keep up with Russia's stand on matters of foreign policy. The Communist Party in America will take the same position, and the party line will fluctuate as Soviet foreign policy changes. Sudden reversals in Soviet policy will cause members of the party to make sudden similar reversals in their pronouncements, which is one of the best ways to spot communists.

3. Become familiar with the names of organizations publicly cited as communist fronts, and refuse to join such groups, to sponsor their causes or to contribute to their fund drives.

4. Be alert to communist tactics in unions and other organizations. Outmaneuver them. Keep them under control and in the minority at all times and attempt to eliminate or neutralize their effectiveness. Openly oppose their efforts to promulgate pro-communist activities or resolutions.

5. Keep communists out of official positions in schools, churches and other institutions where they can poison the

minds and influence actions of youth.

6. Exercise your privilege to vote and keep communists and their sympathizers out of public office.

7. Develop an intelligent, participating interest in civic affairs and programs for social improvement. Don't let communists claim a monopoly in such matters or move in and direct established programs.

8. Report to the FBI immediately any pertinent information relating to subversive activities.

9. Conduct no private investigations of suspicious persons or organizations, but leave that to trained investigators who are authorized to perform such investigations. Do not become involved in the communist movement for whatever worth-while motives without first discussing the matter thoroughly with the FBI and establishing a cooperative relationship.

10. Learn as much as possible about America—its history, government, culture, laws and heritage of freedom; and make the practice of democracy its own bulwark against subversion. Speak up for America and work for America.

THE END

GARDENING MADE EASY

(Continued from page 19)

moss. Now wrap the moss in a special moisture-proof polyethylene plastic. It holds the moisture within the moss and within a few weeks—usually three to eight—roots have formed within the ball and the branch may be severed and the new plant potted on its own. Be careful not to disturb the roots.

The whole propagating kit may be bought at nurseries and large department stores, and should set you back no more than two bucks.

Even antibiotics—the so-called miracle drugs for human use—are being used on plants. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has achieved some interesting experimental results in using streptomycin to control halo-blight on beans. But it'll be a year at least before antibiotics will be available for home gardeners.

Several manufacturers are bringing out the new chemical which will cut down the work of edging your lawn by retarding its growth. Doesn't kill or discolor the grass, you understand: just slows up its growth so much you can skip edging for months. For about a dollar you can get a small package of the stuff—enough to treat four hundred linear feet.

For many a home gardener, the hottest news in gardening is chemical soil conditioners. This far-reaching agricultural advance came in 1953 with the introduction of the various soil conditioners derived from acrylonitrile. Kri-

lium, developed by the Monsanto people, was the first of these and still the standard to which others are compared.

An interesting sidelight on the new chemical: it's made from natural gas, and is the same basic raw material used in making synthetic rubber and such miracle fibers as Orlon and Dynel.

Skipping the scientific terms, let's see what the new soil conditioners will do for the worst soil in your backyard.

Let's take a corner where the earth is hard-packed clay, lacking in organic matter, and so forbidding that not even weeds will grow in it. Into this hardened soil we rake a small amount of the powdered soil conditioner, at a rate of 5 pounds of conditioner to 40 square feet of garden soil. We don't shirk the job of mixing, for the better we mix the better the results.

Now here's the surprise: your soil will stay the way it is now, loose and friable. It won't revert to hard clay. The sponge-like texture of the soil will permit the roots of plants free access to air and water. Note carefully that we've improved the physical property of the soil but we've added no fertilizer. So we'll need to supply plant nutrients in the usual amounts. But there's a gratifying change: the plants can now use the food we give them where formerly they could not.

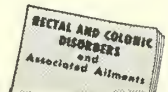
A further tip on using the new soil conditioners: if your soil is sandy or

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already has a lot of organic matter in it; don't use the new soil conditioners. It's the equivalent of throwing your money down a rathole.

After you've patiently and lovingly conditioned your soil, you're all set to plant. And ready to aid you are more mechanical gadgets than you can shake a stick at.

All across the nation, backyards are ringing with the sound of gasoline motors being revved up. These new power tools are fun to operate—even Junior may be temporarily weaned away from his hot rod.

For myself—a man who thinks digging barehanded in the soil is just good, clean fun—I hate to see mechanization go much further. If future gardening becomes a completely push-button affair, I for one will look back nostalgically to the good old days of sweaty exertion.

You won't want to buy all the power tools available for gardeners—unless you want your backyard to look like a testing ground for General Motors. But in the wide variety available, you're likely to find one or more tools that will prove an ever-ready, ever-willing hired hand.

Take power mowers—here you can select from a vast number of electric or gasoline-powered models.

The electric ones are apt to be light, maneuverable, but if your lawn layout has a lot of trees, better forego the electrics—jockeying an extension cord around a grove of sycamores will wreck your temper.

Gasoline-powered mowers come with either rotary cutters or reel types. On the latter, the cutting action is like that of the ordinary non-power mowers. Each type has its advantages: with the rotary type you can cut high grass and also cut quite close to trees and fences. With the reel job, you can carry a grass catcher and save the clippings for your compost heap.

If you have three hundred dollars that isn't working, you can buy a super mower which seems to think for itself. With this gasoline-powered monster, you simply guide it once around your lawn—after that, the machine takes over, cutting in ever-diminishing spirals until all the grass is cut. You can sit in the hammock while it mows, but when it finishes the grass the darned machine makes you get up and go over to shut it off.

For less expensive trimming jobs, there's a pair of lawn shears you operate by remote control: they are supported by a simple wheel on the bottom, and you operate the shears standing up.

Got hedges? Then an electric hedge trimmer is a good investment. With it, you can barber a hedge in no time—but don't do what a neighbor of mine did: he got carried away with the speed of

his new hedge clipper and neatly severed the electric cord!

More expensive than power mowers, but able to do a lot more chores, are the powerful little garden tractors. Coming in both stand-up and sit-down models, these ambulating powerhouses will do a lot of things: plowing, cultivating, sawing, even provide a source of power for running an auxiliary generator. "We thought we knew everything a tractor could do," a Chicago salesman said, "but our customers keep



"C+ in arithmetic! Say! You keep dis up an' you'll toin out to be a big bookie or somethin'."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

telling us new tricks they've got their tractors doing!"

Buying a garden tractor represents a substantial investment—up to \$500. But for Sam Suburban, who is growing fruits and vegetables to keep his home freezer filled, buying a tractor makes sense. Last year we Americans bought \$50,000,000 worth of them—and we'll buy more this year.

Before you buy, get a demonstration from each of the dealers in your neighborhood. Only on your home grounds can you really decide which machine is best for your needs.

And the names they've stuck on these tractors—real crazy! You can buy a Choremaster or a Roto-tiller. Or maybe you like the rough-and-ready—you might get a Tiger, a Mustang, a Beaver, or an Apache. These gutty names are a far cry from a modest little hand cultivator I once used—the Dandy Boy Wheel Hoe.

Garden tractors you may not need—but you're sure to welcome a new and better way to water your lawn and yard. For a permanent installation, you might look into the advantages of a

sprinkler system using the new plastic pipes. No corrosion problem with this stuff, and it's easy to install.

For a less permanent layout, you might like one of the new perforated vinyl hoses. These come in 25- and 50-foot lengths and will spray an area ten feet on either side of the hose. Mighty handy stuff—this vinyl: it won't rot or be harmed by the sun, and you can even tie knots in it to shorten it to any desired length.

For watering a rectangular area, try one of the new oscillating sprayers such as the Avon, Melnor, or the Metco. They're trouble-free mechanically and have the real advantage of laying down water evenly over whatever rectangular pattern you select.

To go with your new sprinkler, you might like a Waterboy Automatic. This gadget costs around twelve dollars, is about the size of your fist, and when attached to your hose bib will dispense water for any interval you select and then shut itself off.

But to my mind, the most exciting new advances in gardening are the developments in plant feeding.

As far back as prehistoric times, mankind experimented in fertilizing plants—it began, I suppose, when some loin-cloth-clad ancestor of ours discovered that the bush with the fish buried at its roots grew better than the others. Today, the home gardener *sprays* his fertilizer directly on his plants.

Till very recently, gardeners were warned not to get any fertilizer on foliage lest it burn the plant. Good advice: ordinary fertilizers *do* burn.

But specially prepared fertilizers, properly diluted and applied at the right time of day won't harm the foliage. With the spray-feeding method, the plant can be nourished immediately—and not have to wait days or weeks as is the case with root feeding. For this reason, a spray feeding of a shrub which has been transplanted keeps it growing without being checked.

Handiest way to use the new foliage fertilizers is to spray them on with an attachment which fits on an ordinary hose. For smaller jobs, a sprinkling can will prove adequate.

Each compounder of these new fertilizers—a dozen or so are on the market—offers slightly different instructions for using his product. Follow the instructions to the letter; whatever you do, *don't* use a stronger solution than he recommends. Remember, he's selling the stuff and will doubtless recommend all you can safely use.

Two tips on foliage feeding I've found which really work: Cut the recommended solution to half strength and apply it more often; do this spray feeding in the early morning when leaf absorption is swift.

"How can I be sure I'm feeding a plant the right amount?" new gardeners often ask. To which I reply: "Let the plant itself tell you what it needs. For better than any book, the plant will give you the straight dope."

Generally speaking, I give heavy-foliaged plants more food than their skinny neighbors. Geraniums for instance, I skimp—they produce more flowers if kept slightly hungry.

If your azaleas (the same goes for other shrubs) have a rich, emerald green foliage and are making good growth they're getting enough feed. On the other hand, if the leaves show a brown edge, it's the plant's way of telling you to lay off the fertilizer for a while. Incidentally, when you see signs of over-feeding on a plant, give it a heavy soaking with plain water and you'll quickly leach out excess fertilizer.

Fruit trees respond well to foliage feeding. And strawberries, man! Strawberries in my garden have grown eighteen inches high and so wide that a bushel basket won't cover a single plant. Last season I spray-fed once every three weeks and had big, flavor-filled strawberries from May to September.

If you grow bulbs of any kind, you can get them off to a flying start by soaking them for a few hours before planting in this same liquid fertilizer solution. Use the same strength you'd use in foliage feeding. Your bulbs will shoot up faster—and, just like Native Dancer, stay ahead of their rivals all through the season.

Perhaps you're wondering if it wouldn't be possible to supply all a plant's needs through foliage feeding. Sure, you could. Mighty expensive, though. And in the long pull, over the years, your garden will be better if you keep your soil organically enriched with annual additions of compost.

Two small compost bins or heaps—one ripening while the other is being added to—belong in every garden. You'll need only ten square feet for the two of them—a far cry from the grandiose plan of a California millionaire I know of who used a bulldozer to convert an entire canyon into a mammoth compost heap!

Half the fun of gardening nowadays comes in trying out new varieties of plants. You'll get a kick out of observing in your own garden the new vigor that plant hybridizers have instilled in their creations.

Here's a handy check list of plants—some quite new, some old friends whose garden behavior has been radically improved:

1. There's crape myrtle—a wonderful shrub in colors ranging from white through scarlet. Long a special glory of our glorious South, new, hardy hybrids of this old favorite will thrive "up

North" if your winters don't go below 10° below zero.

2. Want something truly unusual in trees? Try the new French hybrid lilacs. Shaped like a tree, they bear masses of fragrant blooms. Or if you want an apple tree and are pressed for space, ask your nurseryman for one of the new dwarfs which bear four different varieties of fruit!

3. Like raspberries? Then get some of the new everbearing raspberry. Called September, it's hardy as far north as Vermont, bears crops in spring, summer and fall.

4. Strawberries—there are dozens of greatly improved varieties, but a berry which does well in one section may be a wash-out in another. Best deal: write your state department of agriculture for the recommended varieties for your locality.

5. In deciding what varieties of vegetable to grow in your kitchen garden, you can depend on the All America seed selections. Rigorously tested in all sections of the country, these varieties just have to be great to get the coveted award. All America selections of recent years which have performed outstandingly well in my garden include: Cream White Cucumber, Iochief sweet corn, and Cherry Belle radish.

6. Roses—of course! Nothing like these proud beauties to make your garden a dazzler. Time was when many a disgruntled gardener across this broad land got fed up with temperamental hybrid teas and yanked them out. But the new floribunda roses are not temperamental, are hardy, and will produce a hundred blooms for every one their high-toned sisters used to deliver.

Besides being hardier than hybrid teas, floribundas look better in the garden: they are more compact and much more abundant in bloom. Most floribundas grow to about two to three feet in height, which makes them just right for use as an informal hedge.

Varieties? Dozens to choose from, but the following have proved themselves in my garden: Glacier, a satiny white with good fragrance; Ma Perkins (an All-America prize winner for 1953) has beautifully-shaped deep pink buds; and Vogue—another prize winner, has tapered, flame red buds guaranteed to excite admiration. Finally, you might try Pigmy Gold—a dwarf member of the floribundas. It grows only eighteen inches high but it will astound you with the size and quality of its golden blooms.

There they are—some of the most outstanding of the new stars of the plant world. Try some of them this year, and make it easy for yourself by using the latest work-savers in feeding and cultivating your garden. Less work, more relaxation—that's the big news in your backyard.

THE END

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Grounds for Divorce

*To be clay in the hands
Of a woman can hurt
If it means that a man's
To be treated like dirt.*

—RICHARD ARMOUR

It Could Have Been Worse

A northern tycoon and his nagging wife were motoring through the South on a vacation. The husband was driving. Just as he was entering the city limits of a large town, another car with horn blowing wild and loud overtook him, the driver signaling him to the roadside.

After stopping his car, the other driver came running back. "Mister! Mister!" he yelled. "Your wife fell out of your car ten miles back."

The tycoon slowly turned his head and viewed the empty seat and open door. "Thank heaven," he exclaimed. "For a while I thought I had gone stone deaf."

—FRANKLYN S. JOHNSON



"Hey, Mabel—got any more detergent down there?"

Flexible

A diplomat is a man who swells or shrinks, according to the size of the company he's in.

—DAN BENNETT

No Ide-ing Place Down There

*When the Ides of March comes, it's a
terrible day
For the fellow who 'ides any assets away.
And I'd say "Better pay without trouble
or fuss
So the Tax Bureau won't take the Ides
off of us."*

—BERTON BRALEY

Incredible Heroism

The little Japanese fire brigade leader enthusiastically tackled the English language when our occupation forces took over. He was especially proud of the re-

MARCH
15



PARTING SHOTS

ports he filed with the Americans after each blaze. Following a successful attempt to extinguish the fire in a school building he turned in a report which greatly delighted the high brass. After carefully reporting all essential information he added a few lines to commend the heroism of one of his men, a chap who had twice climbed a ladder to a second-story window—and had both times "come down pregnant." Asked to explain the startling phrase, the little fireman pulled out his pocket dictionary and pointed to the definition contained therein: "With child."

—MARY ALKUS

A Stepping Stone

*A college education never hurt anyone
willing to learn something afterward.*

—F. G. KERNAN

Relatively Round

A salesman, stranded in a small town and bored, decided to drop into the local pool room despite its rundown and rickety

appearance. He was considerably taken aback to see that the balls on the lone table in the place were of the same nondescript color with the numbers all but obliterated.

"How can you tell the balls apart?" the salesman exclaimed.

"Oh, you'll get the hang of it soon," drawled the proprietor. "You learn to tell them by their different shapes."

—HAROLD HELFER

Point of View

*I think that I shall never see
A thing more ugly than a tree;
The certain tree I have in mind,
My golf ball always stops behind.*

—A. T. SPRING

This Cock-eyed World

Doubtfully the young mother examined the toy. "Isn't it rather complicated for a small child?" she asked.

"It's an educational toy, madam," replied the clerk. "It's designed to adjust a child to live in the world of today. Any way he puts it together, it's wrong."

—MURIEL LEDERER

Sometimes

*Little boys who quote their poppas
Get an early start on whoppas.*

—M. G. BRYANT

The High Cost of Sin

TV sets are wicked.
They produce intellectual slackers,
They strain the eyes,
They're the devil's disguise,
And they cost over two hundred smackers.

—FRED D. BALDWIN

A Slight Hint

*When it comes to getting a woman started
on a diet, a word to the wife is usually
sufficient.*

—DAVID O. FLYNN



"Oh, I beg your pardon—my date is on the other side."



"I love to navigate on a Springmaid Sheet"

... says Polly Adullah, former hostess at the Palace Annex

Polly is a granddaughter of Adullah Bulbul Amir, who holds the record for the Bagdad Flying Carpet Race. She has night flying license No. 2 on Type 128 and Type 130 with single motor.

She says, "I wore a nylon parachute during the war when I couldn't get branded sheets and had to fly a broomstick, and I made my first solo on combed percale balloon cloth. That's why I am so happy to have these Nypercale sheets which combine the best qualities of both fibres.

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will reduce my parasite drag. The light weight will cut down my take-off runs. The pre-shrinking will hold their camber so there will be no skim off my lift-drift ratio in velocious air. The low twist makes the cotton satin smooth so there will be no skin off my aspect-ratio in turbulent air. Thanks to the nylon, you don't ever have to iron them and, thanks to the chlorophyll, you don't ever have to wash them.

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